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APRIL



WHAT'S GOING ON Latest news an Amiga and the Commadore

world in general, latest games and a whale lat mare.

L GAME KILLER

Guaranteed infinite lives and high-scares? We put Game Killer to the ultimate test.

MERCENARY MAP Here it is, our exclusive map at one of February's Screen Stars

DRUM 'n' DRAW Two of the latest 64 utilities reviewed: the Com-Drum drum machine and Cod-64 fram Orpheus.

PEOPLE

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noon I.U.) starial is accepted on an all rights de unless etherwise agreed. Enclos Æ if you want the return of original suscricts and phetographs.

47,660 Jen June 1985

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FEEDBACK More selections from our ever-increasing postbag

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70 COMPUTER MAGIC Forme and fortune awaits a few of our readers who sent in magic tips and tricks to: the 64 - keep them coming



74 INTO THE VALLEY Major reviews at Borrowed Time and Allemotive Reality, plus news, chart and areat nomino

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A number one arcade hit jor your computer



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Feedback Feedback Feedback F



Commando Tip

In your Commando review, Mike Pattenden upper age limit and have easier way to do thie.

play with one hand, and ue? press the other one's Cordon Whittaker, button to throw e

partner do the throwing the 16, why not sand it to front page on the screen. to keep on supporting the or put the second us on a cassette and we'll joystick on the ground pass it on to the Disabled and press the button Drivers Club. with your foot.

I hope this hint will be of use to your readers. Jasper Granneria. Holland.

Driver softwore

Recently we purchased a up a very simple and safe the same problem.

C16, datasette and MPS wey of solving this Tom Blaksson, 803 printer so that we irritating problem. could try and compile our If you refer to Appen-own Disabled Drivers dix I of the User Manual cassette program from showing the pin config make our first edition of cassette read pin. the Club Magazine but we could only produce it nector plug from the in words only. And this datasette you will find tims we were hoping to six wires coloured blue make the Magazine more brown, white, red, green some pictures.

But we are stuck for a the white one. program that will knowledge of program- procedure might void please, have a little

ming could write us a your datasette's werlisting to overcome our ranty.

difficulty. Most of us are in the Basingstoks.

wrote that each time you never had any experience want to throw a grenade with computers and you have to hit the space people that we have bar. I have found an phoned have spoken to us in a language that Dear CU.

> Manchester. If you've written a

Heorina Aid

Dear CU, One of the most annoying things about on. Well, I have thought

Club Magazine. Ws for the 64, on page 143 purchased a nice little you will find a diagram Audiogenic which urations of the cassetts worked really well to port. Pin No. D-4 is the

If you open the consttractive by adding and black. The wire that corresponds to pin D-4 is

All you have to do as cut transfer the drawing this wire and attach a from the screen to the small speaker (an old printer. We are only a headphons speaker will programs stop at the 64? small olub and have to do) to each snd of the cut rely for help from any wirs. Whenever the much head scratching source we can, that is detasette, is used to play and time consuming trial why I have written to you a tape, whatever is on and error I have man-

Maureen Cavale,

Hold the Front Poge

Hacker' from Activision people wanted you to. (with a little help from your last Play Better (Carl Jones) did a surve

rintout does not appear. computer. have the printer hooked up through my disk drive these people-(1541). By the term MPS Kevin Coleman, (that's 801 I assume it means me); Neil Thorne; Yeng Datesette is that you was very disappointed Arthur Lok; Carl Jones cannot hear what is gong and I wondered if any of

Harrogate.

Activision had to phone only dump the final you're doing well. Commodors 1525 and Cardiff MPS 801 and Okimate 10 printers. An eccentric choice and one that does you no favours.

Eosy Enter

Dear CU. Your magazine is first class, but one criticism. Why does the EasyEnter system for published I own a C16, and after to see if one of your that tape can be heard, aged to enter Blockade readers who has the Theonly anagis that this and Music Keyboard. So

mercy for us C16 OWDERS and make our programs easy enter. Carol Flew, Bristol.

We all know (well most of ue) that 64 software won't run on the 16. That goes for our EasyEnter System. A team of grack programmers are st this moment beavering away

Supporters Club

Dear CU I'm a satisfied owner of e C16 and I'm very upset to hear that Commodore have signed the humble machine's Death War

Anyway I've been reading Feedback and you said you would keep You need two joysticks. does not mean anything I heve recently supporting the C16 Use the one that controls to us. Can anybody help completed the game depending on whether

Well, ms and my friend booklet!), and have got on people who own C16e You could let your screendump program for the Washington Post to see if they wanted you There is one slight C16. Well here are some roblem though, as when people who want you to press the 'P' key the keep on supporting the

We didn't bribe or fake

the MPS 803 also works, Liu; Liss Pinkerd; the Commodore as that is what I have. I Michael Hutchison; They were only some of you or anyons sise has the people who want you to keep on supporting the C16. I expect (I know) there are thousands of people who want you to the States to sort this one keep going so keep up out for us. Seems you can the good work. G.Force

> We were (alightly) impressed with your huge list of 16 supporters. With games like Commando and Beach Head now syailable for it. Commodore may even keep on the 16 in favour of the, er, Amiga?

Write to us at Commodore User and win yoursen e We went your opinion er, praise: Feedbac odors User 30-32 Farringdon Lane

What's going What's going on What's going on



Holy Cow! It's Batman

eep in the heart of Gotham City sorry Manchester a crafty corporation has hatched a plan to steaf the minds of 64 gamers. Ocean have announced a Batman game. The plan is to pit the Caped Crusader and his diminutive

sidekick Robin into a 140

location arcade adventure.

The dynamic due are hunting going to appear on the Spec piece of the Batmobile which we can only assume have then be converted to the 64. scrap value Programmer John Ritman,

who wrote Matchday, has been working on the game for fourteen months already which must be a record for any Ocean product.
The bad news is that it's

been broken up for their Expect to see a version some time in May if you're lucky.
Alf your favourite characters are in there in cluding the Joker and the Penguin. Ocean's Paul Finnegan is promising "some pretty speciacular graphics and gameplay".

Return to Vendor

Avid readers of our February Issue will remember our news item on Commodore's trade-in deaf for the 128 (return an old 64 and get £50 off). We asked you to suggest what Commodore could do with this pife of geriatric 64

Shorts Pock of Serks: gver to CRL far a Berks annauncement - all three games in the Berks trilagy

are naw available far the 16 and Plus/4 an a single tape. Since the camplete set now only casts £6.95, you must hove been a complete berk buying them individually — must far the Berk-less?

wrote most of you. But the less charitable ideas were funniest. Like Gareth Davies of the Wirral who reckons Commodore should market the 64 as a Transformer, Britain's favourife toy, and turn into a motorbike

But the winning entry (you Donate them to charity, get a copy of Melbourne House's Rock 'N' Wrestie came from Mike Derham of County Cork who suggests Commodore rip out the 64's innards and turn it into a lunchhox/hriefcase for people who go to work in a Sinclair C5.

And whaf are Commarketing boss Mike Clark top of the fist but that it's too shrugs.

• Shorts • More from Joreth:

Music saftware specialist Jareth, have annaunced that their existing range of synth software on the 64, has been adopted to run with MIDI interfaces from other manufacturers, notably Siel, Jellinghaus and Microvax. It's also just released a Real

time Linker System with laaping facilities and laads of enhancements aver the versian that's already on Jareth's prafessional quality Music Composer System. Mare details an: 0386 831615

early to decide since most of modore's plans? Acting the 64s haven't found their way home yet. "Some of Tasword 128 should be reckons that charities are on them don't work anyway", he

Non Runner

Problems are stilf occurring with 64 cassette games which won't load on the 128. Many games shops are now being forced to keep a fist of titles which won't run and ask customers whether they own a 64 or a 128.

Julian Musgrove of Games World in Hammersmith told us that he compiled a list of games which included Rescue on Fractalus, Hypersports, Yabba Dabba Doo and - the most consistent offender - Zarra. Other offenders include Frankie Goes to Hollywood and

The fist has dwindled of late", he added, "but older games will always give us troubles."

The problem seems to involve the use of turbo particularly important memory location is found in a frum and Amstrad first and higher area when the 128 is in 64 mode

A quick cure for this is to press the CAPS/LOCK key down. Many of these games will now load without further problem. To rub salt into the

wounds, some disk based games won't load especially of you're using one of the first batches of the 1570 disk drive. It's rumoured that this unfortunate machine had DOS bugs in it which, hopefully, have now been discovered and removed.

Shorts Tosword for 128: Tasman

Software has just announced that it's warking an a 128 version of its papular Tasword pragram. Tasword is already unique an the 64 because it affers an aptianal 80-column screen text display. The 128 version occarding to Tosman bass such as mailmerge ready round about June

What's going on What's going on ing on What's

Hi-de-Hi

from the Com-modore Ideas Dept is a crafty new way to get you to buy more Commodore hardware and peripherals. Wait for it. it's - holiday vouchers and 'bundles'.

Under the new scheme, dubbed "Passport to Pleasure", you get five £50 vouchers whenever you buy the 64 Compendium, the peripherals pack, a 128, 1570 or 1541 disk drive and any Commodore monitor. You can then redeem them against a selection of holidays from twenty leading tour operators.

But you'll have to check how many vouchers can actually be redeemed at once. For example, you'll get only £50 off a Club 18-30 holiday but the full £250 off a CTC cruise This is, no doubt, an amazing offer but we



couldn't help wondering why value. The latest in Com-Commodore doesn't simply modore bundling is for the reduce its prices - must be a

The reason is that Com-

musically minded. Called The Complete Music System, ri feafures a 64, Sound Exmodore says it prefers to pander and Sound Studio bundle up to give extra (both developed by Music Sales) and a five-octave keyboard. That lot will cost you £329 99. The Music Ex-

parision System (everything except the 64) will cost you £149.99 Watch out for our



Football

pany with the chin on the cover - have announced a conversion of Football Manager for the 16 and Plus/4. the blurb claims "still one of the most popular computer games on the market".

That's quite an achievement since none of us can remember when the 64 version came out - rumour has it that Alf Ramsey played it during the '66 World Cup. Anyway, the 16 conversion should be available right now at £6.95 on cassette. More details from Addictive on 0202 296404



Shorts Clopperboord: Oscar for

the 'most infloted title' this year gaes to Arialosoft with its Movie Moker for the 64/128 (octually written by Electronic Arts). Surpnsingly, it won't let yau moke Racky (five), but lets you produce

small animated sequences that combine graphics, music and text. It comes anly on two disks and costs £16.95. We'll be shooting an location as soon as we get one. Cut.

CRL reckons you'll be able to "da the time-warp" in 128 made this May, when it releases a new version of The Rocky Horrow Shaw for the 128. It should affer new and additional features to the ariginal. No prices yet. though, but you can cantact CRL on 01-533 2918

Sharts Commodore Show-

time: Doesn't time fly - it doesn't seem a year since we pushed and shaved our way through the lost Commodore Show. Well, Shaw number 7 is now loaming on the honzon Fixed for 9-11th Moy, at the usual venue: The Navotel in Hammersmith, Landon. Obviously the Amiga will be the moin attraction. But we'll give you a complete preview in the next issue.



FORCE NEW RECRUITS

Fave TV Prog: Spitting Image. Fave music: Big Cauntry.

Step up to the rostrum please Ferdy Homilton, Colm Clarke, and Richard | Bradbury — winners of our search to find a new recruit for our elite team of reviewers — the G Farce

When we whittled the sock full af entries down to these final three we just couldn't choose between them. They are all such excellent game players that the G Farce hos taken them all on — and you can read their reviews in this issue.

Here are the new boys' likes and dislikes: Calm Clarke hails fram Leeds where he

Age: 16
Family: Twa younger sisters Fiana
and Sarah, Mum, Dad, and a hamster

called Butlin.

Fave Gamee: Boulderdosh "It's my
all time favourite", Impossible
Mission, Revs, Who Dares Wins II,
Bruss Lee, Theatre Europe.

Mast disappainting games ever baught: Beachead II''l almost took it back to the shop", and Elite, "it's so slow to play"

When not blasting aliene tilke: Cycling "I've cycled to Holifax and Wakefield and I'm cycling to Filey In the Summer with a friend for a week's comping after the exams." Richard Bradbury is the only Welshman in the G Force. He lives in Fishguard on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast.

Age: 14 Family: One younger sister called

Sally

Schaal: Fishguard Secondary.

Fave Game: Mercenary and Little

Computer People

Habbies: Cycling and playing faatball. "I am also in the sea cadets, so I've dane some sailing".

Fave TV Prage: Comedies
Fave Mueic: Billy Idal.

Ferdy Hamilton is the cheeky cackney in the lineup. An East Enders fan and

on the lineup. An East Enders ran and QPR supporter.

Age: 14

Family: One older brother called

Philip Fave Games: Uridium, Fist, Wha Dares Wins H.

Dares Wins II.

Maet disappainting game ever
baught: Buck Rogers "it's sa slow
and repetitive".

Habbies: I like football and support

Fave TV Pragramme: East Enders. Fave Muelc: Dire Straits, Bruce Springsteen, Huey Lewis and the News, and Madness.

V Competition

Play Better Comp

We esked you to identify Ne seven sectioned screens from gemes in our February of Pley Better supplement.

In cese you were in daubt the seven games were a Quake Minus 1; bi Ghostbusters; c) Impossible Mission d) Way of the Exploding Fist e) Spy vs Spy II (Island Ceper); 1) Strengeloop; g) Summer Gemes I.

ones in there which caught quite a tew of you out. I Nevertheless there were plenty of winners. First out of the beg were. James Blanden Pymouth Devon.

Alcholes Jinte Smeeth Kant, James Obeham Chenhairy Surrey, Victor Love Strahane Co. Pyrone, Michael Bradley Yorkon Brass, Mark White Bealedon Essex, Marine Grehem Clasgow, Mar Johnson Crosspool Sheffeld, 8920041 Sec Ecoles Merg Supply Sen, RAF Wildermath, Pater Joley Arktow Co. Wickiew

Golden Fleece Competition

Our February Adventure Competition offered you the chance to win All American Adventure's Ulysias end the Golden Fleece, and Duckworth's The Odyssey. In the splift at the genes we asked you to tell us who Odysseus' wite was. The answer which

you Hollenes ell got wes Penelope.

Robert Lerkin Co. Dublin, Christopher Dewson Southend-on See Essex, Spencer Gerdeer Verwood Datast, John Brich Shevington Wigen Lencs, Mrs T. Dutton Westerhein Krist. Our V Competition proved to be a massave hit with you all. Sackloads of entries from dedicated V fans told us the answers we wanted to hear. In case you watched the

In case you watche Dlympics they were. 1) Lydia end Diena 2) Elizabeth

Two possible enswers here, you could have had Philip or Mertin. Martin fook over when Philip was killed. Only one of you got this, so there's en extre prize for you pity you didn't tell us your.

name. 4) Freedom Network 5) Deadly Red Dust

The lucky winners were.

Mark Busby Kingstending
Bemoghem, Sephen Green Upton
by Cheshire Chashire, Kevin Oyder,
Wisthech Cembs, Richard Videl
Kensal Green London, Mr D Brent
Halesowen W Middlands, Peter

Sawyer Standard Lincs, RL. Chambers Cithon York, R Clerket Hamsult Essax, Jason Paul Sprille Kongs Morton Birmingham, Richard Arms Hodge Hill Birmingham, Bryan Emmarson Water-Howile Hanta, Richard Welker Dudity West

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Hante Paul S Morre Kong Lynn
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Scarborogih North Yorkshive, Mark
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Stephonogih Kerti, Milak Gerta, Milak

Boden Morley Leeds, Mike Jones Hanckley Leucs, Tony Cartwright Scarborough N Yorks, Micole Bennett Swinton S Yorkshire, Kame Sharme Bewilly Worcs, S A Gower Dyled S Wales.





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This is an excellent package
Gary Penn ZZAP! 64
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many included makes holy

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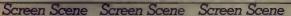
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chenges and over-taking Playing Elektra Glide is the fast recing game where "the experience of playing the game is everything", you are told. They

must be confident I am thinking. This belief is encouraged when the geme loads. A beautiful, colourful lendscape appears with some of the featest moving track I've ever seen on any racing

geme, including Arcade's Pole Position. Trouble is it looks a lot better

than it plays The problems begin the mo-

ent you try to start a geme. You must select the country you want to race in IAmerica, Austrelle, or England), I chose England just to be patriotic - not that it matters much once you get into the game as they all race pretty similarly - even if the ecenery is different.

You also select the level of responsiveness through choosing one of three "Steering Control Envelopes". Why they couldn't just be called 1, 2 and 3 is enybody's guese.

I could heve forgiven the "Envelopes" if they had worked properly I toed three different joveticke and all of them required a great deal of yenking in all directions to get the game up and

Once you do get started you will find the geme fest end fungue and the graphics impreserve. The trouble so the steering is just not responsive enough Reach the tunnel to

get into the next

section.

on any of the levels. You never appear to spin off the track altogether, you just bude you yllend littru nwab wolk

der to a helt. There is too much slowing down of the action for my taste Becanse of the lack of responsiveness mentioned above, it is difficult to dodge some of the obstacles that loom up in the road in front of yon. And crash once you hit something you must

stoppingl The sum of the game is simplicity Itself. "Stay on the track at all costs, and reach the tunnel leading to the start of the next section". That's it. There ere controls on the desh - but

epert from e sethes singgesh speed Indicator they don't serve any purpose in the geme

It is all very futuratio - with some highly impressive shapes moving towards you. As well as the bouncing balls end criboide you are also buzzed by a jet fighter that swoops low over your car and then accelerates

towerde the honzon. It's difficult to sum up Elecktra Glide because there is so much in It that is good - it's just that the whole thing doesn't get together to make a playable game.



Watch out for the futuristic shapes.

I can't help thinking it was a mistake on English's part to invite comparisons with Pitstop II because that just serves to remind you what a superior racing

game the Epyx product is. All new racing gemes have to be compared to Pitstop II because that is the stendard. Elektre Glide fells below this standard for shout the same money

Eugene Lacey

Graphics *** Sound *** Teoghnoou *** Stayling Flower *** Value **

reen Scene ad to be doing at each stage Icons only work if they is virtual-

ly self-explanatory. Their use here is clumey and gimmicky Thre is not to say there are no worthy feetures in this tide. On the contrary, a great deal of work has gone into it as ie evidenced by the detail in the three separate manuals, clevarly written as if eddressed to a real police officer. But as an entertamment it's let down by certain strange departures from realiem (such as the daily bank raids), by its utterly



wn: e pretty drab place Middletos all sound

nondescent graphics and cound, and by the fact that when all's seid and done it requires fai too much affort for for too little reward. As they say - a policemen's lot is not a happy Chris Anderson

Cembics Seuni 🖈 Taughness *** Stayong Fower ** ** Valor

THE FORCE Commodore 64/128 Mind Games Price: £9.99/cass

'Filo 'ello 'ello, whet's this? A game in which you take on the rale of a police officer. Sounds interesting. Parhapa you can do ell the thinge that assim to make the police so, ar, populer? Well not gurts. The Force is a strategy

game, and a boring one at that, The main graphic display is of a diab looking map showing diffarent coloured regions each of which represents a different type of nice euch as 'residential' or 'Industrial' Four different poirce statrona are marked and each has control over four separate

zonee

It'e possible to occass from the screen voluminous sets of statistics showing crime rates in each area and the number of dif farent types of police unit (bobbree, motor patiols, dog handlers, stc.) currently allocated to each

Bread on this information you have to plan how to daploy your units for the week shead, a time parrod which is broken down into no less than 21 different elvita each of which may require sapmete planning

In addition, you have to make illowences for epocial events such as football matches and visits of dignitions listed in the week's drary (a eeparate scinen). Once you've made your deci-

smos, you advance the clock and a telatext-type printout tells you of all the bank and post office I side you ferfed to allow for properly and how your pollca rating

is suffiring nain result

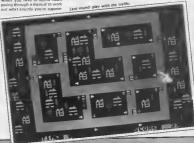
Finally you have a chance to control the town's traffic - the only part of the game that takes place in real time. The idea ie to switch traffic lights on and off to keep vehicles maving round the parimeter road

The program is being promoted on the strength of being 'rcon-driven' - in other words you make your choices by using a joyatick controlled cursor to ealact from a range of amail protures each representing a different aption in theory this is easier than antering text or being presented with a range of manue.

Not eo with this program, where you have to spend hours poring through a manual to work



Area D: deploy forces where appropriate





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Screen Scene Screen Scene Screen Scene

TIME TUNNEL Commodore 64/128 US Gold Price: £14.95/disk £9.95/cass

You see 114 years old end yoning as gnomes go, You would fow to become gnome king, but this is not easy, for you must recous seven pages from an encent gnome scriptnae which were actitured ecclosa time by an evil cyclops. Your tests to regain them end decephes the messages before you can become gnome king.

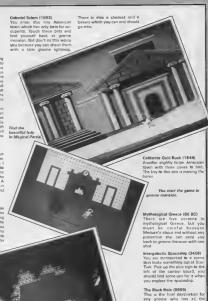
You start the geme in gnome mansion but before you can set off yon must build e time mechine, it's not exectly Alirfix but there see instructions. With the whole shebang assembled it's seet baits on end back to the

Stone Age (9600 BC) Each time zone has its own clue

in the instructions, "Laver youself to be a intie bolder". I em and the stack you will find in one of the cover, but I'll leave you to work that one out yourself a peec of the cupture is found in every time zone but can you find this one?

Megicel Persie (893 BC) You stare at the setting sun while

ponduring what to do nisxt, when I you suddenly here enchenting misse. You look up and see the most beeutiful lady. What do you do next? Follow her, pick up the shield and store it, or go towards the time hole which will send you to enother destination.



Plenty of things to be picked up inside the

chemist shop

Overell U.S. Gold have produced such a highly entertaining puzzle peckege that you may went to become gnome king steenge though that may seam. Ferdy Hamilton insplict *** *** ** *** *** *** *** *** ***

Staying Power ***

Value ***

16 COMMODORE USER



SUPER 80WL Commodore 64/128 Ocean

Price: £9.95/cass

Interest in American Footbell has grown areadly in the country either Chernel 4 began televising. It, Only the theilis of Brookade stopped it being the company's biggest audience puller. So who biggest audience puller. So we have a so of Vorkahler and perty pack of self. In a self-per case of Vorkahler and perty pack of self- in year case of Vorkahler and perty pack of self- in year case of Vorkahler and perty pack of self- in year case of Vorkahler and perty pack of self- in year case of Vorkahler and perty pack of self- in year case of the year case of Vorkahler and perty pack.

6.3 million people propping their expetide open. Like me meny of them get bored wetching a messacra and went to bed. Ocean's game though gives you the opportunity to replay the whole thing with the blessing of the NFL. So If you're good shough the Pets might stand a chance after all.

Don't worry if yon don't understand the rules properly there's an endic tope that comes with the peckage explaming all about it. And don't ge thinking for a moment that if you go and buy it you'll and up with something like the Ten Yead Fight coin op that was in all the pube a year or more ago, the just not possible to have that many players on screen with the 64. So the appreach Ocean have.

elde of the screen

takes over as a manu during tectical

> taken is to go for a spit effect on the screen and to concentrate your eltention on the strategy that is so important an the real thing Don't turn the page though it's not like The Force or Now Jime, once you get used to the selections then it can be played quite quickly.

> As I've said the screen is epit vertically in helf. The jot hand elde of the screen is devoted to the tactical decisions for the preliminary part of the game before you extually make a play. Let's easy we are playing a two player game and that I'm offence and you're defence. Right, you have the driff Commodors have the driff Commodors.

Let's say we see playing a two player game and that I'm offence and you're defence. Right, you have the diff Commodors joyatck and I'll has the Wico Now once I have possession I have three attempts to make ground. Using the joyatck I'm goint to esject from the manus within him in an the left.

The first decision I have to make is what fond of pees to at

tempt. The options range from long, short, rush and a special play (such as field poal). Selection of one of these takes me to a more disasted manu from which choose the type of pass I have already selected. If that count

contueing you must remember there is more then one kind of long or short pees. If I selected the shotgun' pass — In which my querterbeck runs

In reverse to his own endzono and then throws a long bomb pess — this is eutometroely midicated on the right hand add of the acrean where the teams are displayed as small equares finally i choose who I want to be my receiver by shifting a cureor count in the team. All this is done by joyatick and takes very little

At the point you get a clience to energy your defence to try and stop me scoring (inc chance). The first thing you have to do is choose a formation. Different formations are needed depending on where you are You then go to a more detailed manu as I did before to selept exactly whitch player is marking which. If doesn't metter if you don't know

The player under control in defence under back. Once the player under control in defence to the

the players flesh as you move down the numbers. Get planty of men on my querterback (number 10) because ha's the business.

After the play has been made you get a replay screen depicting the action.



balara I mani yau is saloct a man to control. This is just as I did sor on a playar - profarably one of the backs - and got ready for play you get in the real thing.

The action now switches to the right hand side of the screen. of the quarterback. You will at of the man you put to mark on mina will go for them. What you up to you, but I suggest you try and get him to make an intecopt. Right are you ready? Go! And it's all over, my 'split and' has sust accred. You wore too alow. Takes a bit of gotting used to ed it there's now a raplay going

Now all I have to do is kick for the oxtra point. I select the right powar on the scraan and there ing into a massacro for the Bears again Go away and prectica

with the computer for a couple of I'm a bit toin about Super Bowl. It is vary axact and praciso. All the rules are there and the almulation works



perfactly. It's a shame that the players are limited to the size they are by the 64's sonto capacity. If this a is a way around it Softstona, the game's programmers, couldn't think of it.

The apace of the thing isn't as alow as it may sound bacausa the salactions don't take long

once you're used to the game The computer will also salect by dafault for you - suggesting an option at each stage. All you have to do is keep bitting the file

As simulations go I don't seo anyone doing any better with American Football, The strategy and possible movas the game

voluted rules, asp a lot of the game prettier with good animation and larger figures would inavitably have detracted from the gamoplay and that is

Nevertheless a gamo you have to apologise for auggests that it len't going to be a classic, it all dopends on how much of a fan you are. Mo, I think it's my turn

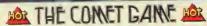
Mike Perrenden

The result of tha



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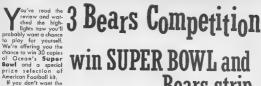
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Beor's strip don't worry you can have any NFL team you like. Added to that there's a NFL ball. stickers of your favourite team and a bath towel to dry off with after the

competition hard (ish) so os to fovour the American Foatball fans. What we want you to do is identify the three Chicogo Bears pictured.

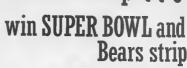
Danny Wallace (C)

Dean Friedman.

(A) Kan McMahon (B) Jim

McMahon (C) Phil McAvit

game We're making the





Choose the correct players from the three Division footballer in this

passibilities given for each picture and then (A) Walter Payton (B) tell us in no mare than 50 words which First cauntry would be best suited to go and play American-style Football and why. Fill out the coupon and (A) John 'The Refrigers send it to: Three Bears Woods (8) William 'the Comp, Cammadore User, Priory Court, 30-32 Forringdon Lane, Londan EC1R 3AU. gerator Perry (C) Be Entries to reach us no later than April 15. Address Picture 2.... Picture 3 I think ... wauld suit American Football - use separate sheet of paper).

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Chaile e traubleshooter unwillingly helping the ICUPS (International Commisson for Universal Problem Solving) re back in this, the sequel to the impressive *Notes of Visod*

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troctule cased the wouldn't He returns in this geme to destroy the Monolith which is in fect e very sophisticated com puter designed for the purpose of eggression. Feilure to destroy or will ellow the machine's con trollars the Aretans. to wipe Earth of the astrological map.

The resultant ection is much the seme on Nodes Arcele edventuring with hundreds of locations end party grephice. As before uses to explore exist above and below ground end you so Charle wender through them in you spece suit protected only your destruction sphere.

Collect the crystells as before using the tensporters to move quickly around the locations. These hold the key to the destruction of the Monolith If you've seen the ongline!

pect more of the seme, but if you're a newcomer to the Yesod gemes you'll get a good excede adventure for your money



On the surface — st to go underground.

Charlia some saults up and over the podiums with a stab of the fire button.

Ultimate's secont output though the peakers shown a signe of making the mistake in finding a successful for maker and overdowing it.

A new germs next time please

to keep us all happy. Ferdy Hamilton

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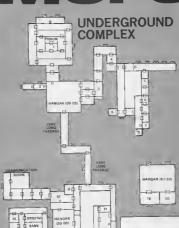
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Mercen



ere it is, our map of the most important locations in Mercenary. At the beginning, you must go underground and reach the Briefing Room for Instructions. We've mapped out that area logether with the two hangers (09-05 and 09-06) you can go down to get there. Remember, in this area, there's also lots of objects you'll need to pick up.

Our second map is of the Palyer Colony Ship you'll eventually get to. You must take gold to the Exchequer and medical supplies to the hospital room. Have lun, 'cos that's all we're telling.

by Adrian Bott

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OBJECT KEY



Usa your shuttle to go down to the planet surface

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Not the first deap-speed apr. to reach our screams, but Stanship Andromade could prove to be a tough our to cack even lost bettle-hardened Elita commenders. The germa has ngid objectives, athough unified Elita, no

Beneath. Steer your ahlp down into the planet to the bottom pick up what's there and go back up.

STARSHIP ANDROMEDA Commodore 64/128 Ariolasoft Price: £12.95/disk

> accaration and much exploration To complete it, you will have to play and complete each of the few "Werps" in anquence Each werp is leaded from the double sided disk provided, and a password system allows entry to warps two and above. This pessword system also permits continuestion of a game at a lates!

While in normal space, you will find an assortment of anemy

cieft, planats and asteroids. Applying full thrust will project you oraft anto metapace, where Wait distances can be covared in a relatively short time, and the effects of rad glants and blue effect on your time and analy

Will cost you the gama!

Wasp Joontains the planets
from which you collect Tryss:

clear strategy is visible at the

The Plot: The Gelaxy is belog not by the Federation under the evil aye of a tyrant named Alens. Har power aminetes from a nacknee which also happains to be the security key for the Mindloid computer, which controls the Gelaxy.

Your task in to locate a proton lance and the matricles (Zyron and Tyrast to power it, destroy a sufficient number of Faderation at rebease to corner Alera, cut the neckace from her and reprogram the Mindlerd computer for the banefit of mankind.

The Gama: Stership Andromation is a semi-off mankind.



and Zyron (the two elements needed to power the proton-

the surface while evolding Wars 2 contains the 'where-

with-ell' to acquire a proton

Warp 3 contains the aterbases Warp 4 is Alana's staiship

which you will need to overcome and enter

the game, the Mandfold computer, and the fitte of the galaxy, The graphics sie simply jects here, not just stick-like

transparent representations. Ad-3.D effect of being able to view an object from different engles, all the same.

Soundwise, you get all the usual lasers, explosions and

End of the quest - this ship contains the Mindland computer.

> Staying Power *** Value +++







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OBSERVER MAGAZINE

There's so much one could say about this game butt all bots down to one thing—poout buy? load if up, and spend hours, days, weeks, perhaps even months playing it.

PERSONAL COMPUTER GAMES

Dogradark's Revenge has not only matched the PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD

omdark's Revence in a

RASPIITIN Commodore 64/128 Firehird Price: £6.95/cass

Rasputin, or PACNOTNH as they say in Ruesie, is vary much in the mould of Knight Lore. No surprise theu to discover that it is in fact a couversion from the 48K Spectrum But don't lee that out you off. It's en excellent game which has been improved by the eddition of manic music courtesy of meestip Ron Hubbard

You ere cest as crusader Iven Kosmovichski ou an epic quest to discover the Jewel of the Seven Planets, source of the evil spint of Resputiu

Armed with your trusty sword end magic shield, you begin the quest on the opening screen. Ac tunily, pleuets, in the sense of spherical bodies which pibit the heavens do not appear m the game Instead, the scenaro consists of a maze of 3-D rooms resembling the iuteuor of a stone

fortress. On leaving the title screen m e southerly direction you pass through a gate which bands you to the first of eight entechembers. The other seven can be reached by trevelling either East or West and there is a 'wrap around' which meens if you go far enough m one direction you ernye beck where you started

don't bother you, but if they become a pein a quick thrust plets with cross Each of the satechembers is Above each gate is one of

with the old sword turus them into au matent burlel mound com-

word PACNOTNH Isomy our eword and sheld Usually they typesetters dou't possess any Cyntic script). This may have some deeper significance, but I found it e useful meapsug aid.

Pessing through the gate you come to en inner chember Life here is very much more difficult due to the presence of evil

beasties out for your blood, and contraptious which make progrees nigh on impossible. It is no these chembers that you will find the stones bearing the merk of

Resputiu Samply jump on them to top up your energy reserves. The innar chembers elso feeture special stones which will transport you to other locations. The game becomes a struggle to meinteln your energy reserves. Each time you are run through by a guard, grizzled by e ghoule, as simply stupid enough

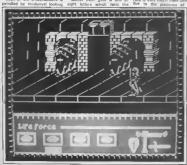
to fell off a well, you lose energy Whenever you jump on a Resputin stone you gesu it back In practice you can suffer many deaths before your evergy runs out end you can make it lest much longer by judicious use of award end shield. Be cereful not TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF eye on the two-ended candle

which burns away with each use of your weapon, When the inevitable happens and you finally run out of energy, you are awarded a hero credibili ty rating. After a couple of house play I managed just over five per cent, plenty of scope for improvement there. I grew to like this game more as I played it



Ken McMaho





F.A. CUP Commodore 64/128

Virgin Price: £7,95/cass

Every year at about this time, the nation is grapped by Cup faves Great idea — bring a game out

and capitalise on it all.

Virgan's affort is not a football
sucade game like the now legandary international Socces, but a
football Menagar-style strategy
game Now I'm agreat fan of Addictive's classic lesigue struggle,
as it would seam no problem to
condiance eight or as rounds to
allow you even more mens geral

So from a potential winner how do Virgin come up with a game which is as about as in tereating as wetching Acci ington Stanley play Warrington in

e bog? The fenits ere meny To start with you have a 1-8 player input if these eren't eight of you, you and up controlling eight sides in one final I was actually menaging both teams.

As the penfully allow draw takes place you discover your only actual tectroal control over

the game is whether to choose to which is often an benal that you defand, play a balanced game, or want to reach for the happy pfile.

attack In later gemes the metches ere brightened up with a bit of news

which is often ac benefithet you want to seech for the happy pills. I meen does a precion shormation like "The goal nest are stolen on the eve of the match" serve any use? For agains which

pathatic During one final I weated told that both teams were lookmg trad after three minutes of

Domg the same repetitive



GERRY THE GERM Commodore 64/128 Firebird/Hot Range Price: £6.95/cass

I mey as well come right out with it, Gerry the Germ is the seckast thing since space shittle jokes. Six screens of pure revulsion. If you are in any way deficate,

You see Gerry with a massion in if to infect as many organs as possible inntil the haplass humanoid drops deed with a heart etteck Of course, you will need to in-

fact your way through vestors acreans until you reach the climactic heart scene. Actuelly it is not as bad as it

End up floating down the bladdar if you bump into eny nasties.



tolet, the Panciess sizinvey are ten (art, erf), a tropcal occar complete with desert reland for the bleddar, and a budge for the ear ston't ask me why, and don't sak Feebed 'cense they don't know either). The one thing that all of the

screens have in common is that they all feature some form of dodging and collecting in the lungs you have to dodge

the red blood cells protecting the cens of oxygen which spees inform time to time it's not deep grebbing the oxygen – you need to study the patterns of movement of the cells so that you concloses your moment to desh in end grub the cens. The cans also behave like the fruit in Padden – diseppearing a split second before you make your greb

The lodney is more of the same — where you are challenged to set alk lodney beans before you get to new the toolst. Don't say! I defin't warn you. And so on to the stomach — a levels and ledders germs with fruits end this wedges of yourmy creem cake scattered eround the platforms. The bledder is where you and

up if you bump into e red blood cell in the lunge, or get caught by one of the nextles on enother ecreen It has to be the most tedious

It has to be the most reducedchallenge aver conceived Gerry is ship wrecked. His tmy rowing is ship wrecked. His tmy rowing greb a piece of flotuern to plug the hole — in this case a loo roll. If he can heng onto the loo roll long anough it will take him up to the level of the stand — his accept. Troble is the see horses.

Screen Scene Screen Scr

dy. The only saving place was that it only took ma a couple of

things at each round and for the replays which inevitably crop up is as much fun as wetching paint that it only took ma a couple of attempts to guids the Hammars to the final and on to win the Cup Perhaps there as some realism sitter all

Mike Pattendan

Oraphics ★
Sound NFA
Taughtsons ★★★
Staying Power ★★
Value ★

Grab the cane of oxygen floating around in the lung

right back to the beginning again if you make a blunder

In the unlikely event of you wanting to see this through to the bittle and you will heve to in-lact the madical boxes in the parchase and bounce arrows off a radio towards the heart in the

final screen.
The best thing you can say about Gerry the Germ is that it is difficult. It would take a long

MR PUNIVERSE Commodore C16 and Plus/4 Mastertronic

Prica: £1.99/cass

Mr. Puniverse is Mestertronic's

entiwes to Aunoid Schwarzeneg gar Mi Puniversa is the weedeast, most pathetic axample (and hance leades) of a new bread of man — withings — whose destiny is to have send kicked in 50 week and undernoutshed the must spend all has time in search of the vitamin pills which keep him alwe, basely

Dasign was. Ms Punivaise is semila to Garanin's Monty on the Run. By which I mas no not than that it's a platform general was to go do do est that has the was the was sent as vary good one at that he must work has way around the 25 screens and puck up his life asstoring pills liom asch one. What makes it mos of a Challenge than your avaisance plat-

Challenge than your average platform pesting is that a carrian amount of thought is required to ist leve the pills from the less eccassable locations. Laser beams make certain

course index causes make causes to come in posterior to a worked off if you find the right level. The problem is that switching off the beams allows the cannon to fair invasion at you. A flaw well calculated decisions have to be made as to which obstacle will be the assists to overscome.

overcomo

Sometimes it's simply a case
of ness impenetrable defences,
file the room of half a dozen
pulverisates. Pulverisate are bie
huge steel pilles which descend
on you from a great height, it's a
good idsa not to be stending
under nesth them when they do,
in this noom you have to run.

In this room you have to run under neath the lot of them whilst at the same time jumping over the missiles fixed from a cannon at the far and This is difficult, but not impossible, I did It. Get

time to crack. But the question is would you want to? It's more flustratingly difficult, than interestingly so.

The graphics are brightly coloured and amusing, though lacking in detail. Musicelly it screas highly — with a highly surable loony Rob Hubbard tuna, changing to match each individual

I can't help thinking Firebild have mede an error of judgement with the game. Not bequies of the subject metter. Some people will say it's offensive, but programmer Mev Dink (yes, that is

ting back out on the other hand is

There are a few things shout the game I don't like. If you're not careful you can fall into deed ands which are Impossible to upmn out of Whan the happaned for the first time I concluded that the only thing to be done was turn the mischine off end isload. Then, using the jieas.

Then, using the 'praes' everything in despersion technique' I discovered that the D key causes you to commit punicide. Considering you have eight lives a minor price to pay restly. Much more endoying was

whan I handad blindly into a new screan streight under a pulusiasi. That I could take, but watching my remaining sevan Puniverses suffer the sarron group in fare without being able to do enything about it was just too much.

That aside, Mr Puniverse is sn excellent game end well worth the usual two quid price-tag Ken McMahon

Graphics ***

Sauns ***

Toughness ***

Staying Pawer ***

Staying Pawer ***



his name) thinks it's just funny Make up you own mind about that The isal arror of judgement was making it a Hot game — it should have been a cheaple.

Graphics **
Sound **
Tsughtage **
Stayling Power *
Value **

keep bobbing up and nicking the loo role to plug the tap. You'll see a lot of the screen at the beginning of the game. There is no avoiding it for Garry the Garm is one of the games that takes you

COMMODORE USER \$1

Screen Scene Screen Scene Screen Scene

THEY SOLO A MILLION II Commodore 64/128 Ocean

Price: £9.95/disk

thick and fast these days with at least one collection being ennounced each week. Ocean end US Gold are unique ly positioned to clean up hera

because of the yest number of titles in their product range especially now that they have a stake in Ultimate. In view of this, many gamess

may be surprised by the four titles chosen for They Sold A Million II

Two of them appear to be very strange choices In fact, you could even question whether the four titles did actually sell a

Merch Day definitely didn't contribute meny seles towards the total as it never appeared by itself in the first place. Of course you could argue that there is you could sigue that have anothing in a name. Anyway, here Bit difficult to say enything about the four games when they were

ENTOMBEO

The second trile in Ultimate's Au games would say it is the best game A quest beneath the pyremide to find the Ancient Eya of Osilis. Described as a "descriptional edventure that'll keep you at the Another sports game and computer for hours" A Commodore User Screen Star.

Pronoatation *** Skill Lavel *** Interest *** Value ***

BRUCE LEE

This should be a popular opon They Sold A Million II - the first of the smush but martial erts gemes. It may seem a bit datad by comparison with some of tha latest kerate games - Fist, Yie Ar, and Kung Fu Master - but It was the daddy of them ell and very popular it was too when launched way back in winter

You play the port of the lete. greet, kung fu king - Bruca Lee You are pursued through various lavals of platform screens by the Ninja end the grent Green Yemmeted out to deal with these nasties - but in the case of the Yemmo soveral direct hits are re- Sold Half A Dozen quired to see him off Com-

morfore User seved about this game in qui Decembei "84 issue

Proportation *** Stall Locat *** leterest *** Value for money ***



MATCH DAY

this one es wa heven't seen it yet, It has appeared on the Spectrum where it did resonably well it is going to have to be better then just reasonably good to cut it on the 64 - where Internerional Soccer still reigns supri thui Pendiegon sega and many as the number one football

MATCH POINT

enother conversion from a Specburn original Its graphics and sound effacts failed to impress on the Commodore If you really went a tennes simulation than this will serve the purpose It has to be seed though, that it is nothing to write home about and certainly there is still room for a decant tennia gama for the 64. Any tekers?

Presentation ** Skill Level *** laterest ** Value for money **

CONCLUSION

Two good games and two fauly everage once On belence you are still getting a much better deal than if you bought, say, four Mestertronic charges I cen't help thinking though that Ocean could have afforded to put these mo. Punches and kicks can be really good games on They Sold A Million II - sethes then suct two I rename this game They

Eugene Lecev



Commodore 64/128 Bea Byte Price: £1.99/cass

Whatever happened to Bug Byte? And all that hit games well at . . do you know any? No woods; they went bust! Well now they're back with a new renga of budget gemes. Will they be env better, or can they gat worse its it possible?) The game is all about getting out of fiell and climbing the steriway to heaven (wasn't that a record?) - Yeeh, e duff one too - Ed

The instructions compare the gems with life itself "Freught itsalf is an understatament the word little should be raplaced with "Almost impossible" becoming an angel as no piece of

When you start on the first sheet you reelise what a task you have You are east a mannie little

to get peet leige demons moving steeway going in the opposite direction to you On your way you must collect

various heavanly items such as sound doesn't make it any sesses to pope with either Obviously Bug Byte's idea of sound is a loud whirring noise. You're best off turning your telly down as soon as you have loaded this swful game. The graphica are no better either and the colours are awful. I would have been plad to

own a black & white TV. Thate sta six hellishly flustiating scients to complete

before you can meet Jesus and the rest of the gang But don't fell off any steinways or It's streight back to acrean one. if the game was enything like

> Staying Power ** Yeins **

life. I'm sure we would all have committed suicide by nowl Ferdy Hamilton





Preview Preview Preview Preview



It's assy enough to cross Easy Street

cerned is Poper Bay. This Atari cain-ap prayed mightly popular in the arcades when it challenged gamers to take on the most hazardous of paper rounds.

The householders are not at all arateful to receive their marning news with nasty messages written on their door mats like 'get lost'. Deal with these by zapping them with a for weekend edition of the local rag.

The game was mast famous for its navel cantrals - proper bicycle handlebars complete with rubber grip pads. Elite will not be issuing a set of handlebars with each capy of the game but they are cantident of providing most of the game's main

features in the conversion - including the break dancers, and BMX assault course

CU reported lost month on Ocean's canversian of the Konamı orcade game — Green Beret. This is the ane
I'm waiting to see. It challenges you ta rescue five hostoges that are tied to

pasts befare a firing squad. If you've played this in the arcades then you wan't need to listen to me raving about the speed and quality of the graphics. Ocean have Dave 'Ramba' Callier coding this ane sa the chances of on occurate conversion are

pretty high. Melbaurne Hause also have some of their pragrammers beovering away on a coin-op canversian. Last time I was in their plush new offices I cought sight af an arcade machine colled Jail Break, another scraling shoot 'em up in which you have to rescue the guards and citizens who are being terrorised by a gang of escaped cons

I am told this game is so vialent it was withdrawn from certain arcades when it was first launched.

PAPER BOY

When you look around the softwore houses at the games they have in the pipeline a very clear trand is emerging a major shift back to arcade conversions.

This time lost year the picture was en tirely different with same highly original prajects appearing - Impossible Musian, Shadowfire, and Boulder Dash to name but three.

Now the wheel has came full circle with no less than eight arcade-ta-hame canversians in the Tao Twenty. Elite started it all off with their monster hit -Cammanda, even if Ocean did tie up a whale range of Konomi titles prior to

Melbourne House were in there taa with Marble Madness (Er, Gyroscape

— I shauld say), and US Gold with their chart-tapping Kung Fu Moster. Naw several orcode conversions are about ta hit the shops. Elite have just launched Bomb Jack,

with Ghosts and Gablins almost ready, and Poper Boy on the bailer. The big one os far as Elite are can-

ous driver - a car backs out in front of you



GOLF CONSTRUCTION SET

Thonkfully not oil the games under development are straight shoot 'em up arcade conversions. Come on, admit it, things would be pretty bor-ing if they were. What do you mean, no?

Well, anyway, Ariolasaft have another Construction Set on the way, which, fram what I've seen so for, cauld easily be the best ane since the brilliant Pinboll Canstruction Set.

Called Golf Construction Set, you play a camplete eighteen-hole course against a friend or against the com-

The screen is divided into three sec-

his club at the bottom. To select the strength of the stroke you simply press fire. If you want to hit the ball hard, let your man swing the club right above his head. A weaker stroke is made by

taking the swing to hip height only.

As in the real thing, you select a putter once you get an to the green, a wood far attacking the fairway, and one of the irons far bunkers, raugh grass and other hazards.

This business of selecting clubs for certain shats and the gradual leisurely way in which you progress around the caurse gives this simulation the feel of the real thing.

Best of all, though, is the designer part of the program. This enables you to construct a complete eighteen-hale course as taugh ar as easy as you like. We will have a full review of Galf Construction Set next issue.

Looks like being a birdy at the first





AN EDITOR, ASSEMBLER, MONITOR AND ANALYSER THAT REPRESENTS A NEW APPROACH TO MACHINE CODE DEVELOPMENT.

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path of a program to be stored so that bugs can be traced . bock to their source.

* 17 types of breakpoints are available - up to 8 can be set of tunmodes. Breakpoints can be set in ROM or RAM

THE ASSEMBLER

A full two-pass macro assembler (co-resident with the editor) with conditional assembly and cross referencing.

- Ruft in calculator facility.
- * fir disc mode files can be included from floody.
 - Commodore and Centronics printer compatible.* Built in monitor, disassembler deburger.

THE ANALYSER

A completely new Concept in program debugging. This unique utility oflows you to execute up to ten analyser programs that scrutinise your machine code program while it is running. When a particular condition is found the program will break with on option to trace the patil taken.

any one time. Options include "down-count" and control of slow screen, the analyser can be set to run the program up to the poin that a 'write' is made to a particular area of the screen. The both con then be listed to find where the error originated.





MUGSY'S REVENGE Commodore 64/128 Molbourne House Price: £6,95/disk

Quite why this game is called Mugsy's flavenge is a mystery to me se the original Mugsy game haver made it onto the 64. Fortunetaly for 64 owners

Fortunetaly for 64 owners Mugay's Revenge is now out end offers you the opportunity to make like a real Chicago

It's 1919. Prohibition prevents the legal concumption of alcohol across America — and Mugsy and his geng of hoodiums asm to get tich running Caredian moonshine across the border.

Magey's flevenge is basically a tredling game where you must buy and self moonshine, nightclube, hire hoods and pay off the cops — with the com-

puter exching as banks; But don't get the Impression that you can play the game like a good accountant for there are also rendom assements built into the program that will thewer you if you are too cautious — kike the Fade who are sitways ready to pounce, and the Organisation who will begin to get jasious if you get too successful.

A trading game may not eeem like much to you and to be honest if it wesen't for the highly impressive graphics you would have to dismise the game for lock of playebility.

But those graphics are so good they do put it into a higher category. One of these acreene Text takes up only a ameli area of the screen but it scrolls amouthly upwards



Just one example of this game's many high-quality graphic

shows a pool with a neon sign that plays through a sequence with each letter lighting up one by one until the whole thing fleshes, turns off, and then begins again, if pazed at this for minutes—It see centry.

The geme piev unfolde through crolling taxt in windows super imposed on the gengeter-like proture screens. You make most from your entries through feirly elmple one-key commends For exemple the number of beirele of moonshine you went to buy, or the number of houds to be hired.

There are also a number of arcade sequences which are shoot-outse with rivel gengs. Fell by simple stuff this — up, down, last, right and space bet for fits using the keybord to play. Lesy fairly simple, but these shoot outs do come as welcome raisel from the business of buying and selling and meking money.

It's important to make a profit in August's Revenge, if you finish the year with less than you started "your boys" will take over the operation. They don't mince worde either. After a particularly bad tredding year it was told. "you couldn't run a Sindergraten".

The gengster-spinek is kept up throughout the gene. Attention to detail must heve slee necessitated much study of 1920's feshion as the gengsters are dressed so authentically right down to these spots. It's a not that these excellent

down to their spets
It's e pity that these excellengephics, and a nice regitm
sound track wins wasted or
Mugay's Revenge because thi
truth of the metter is that then
lan't slottort.

Eupens Lec-

Benghios 女女女女 Saund 女女女 Toughnoss 女 Staying Fower 女





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topic, epert from, of course, in the USA Frenkly laws Jims does not stend up agenst the numerous releases eleady esteblished, it nother hes the broad base of a detailed campaign to drew on, not a quality greatic or sound systems of note

Dedosted wergene buffs will no doubt buy it, those with e pessing interest will ignore it end those looking for something new end different would be extremely desepointed if they do buy it. The laistel promise of John

Betheli's trient es seen in Felikinds '82 hes not lived up to expectation. It is very held to see whet John did between writing the two games except look around for e similar situation, en island, a neval lending end e bloodbeth battle to the end. PSS no doubt thought they hed hit on a winning eystem. Try something else lads for god'e else! No Wake Island. Normendy or Scilly

gemes like this PLEASE! Let's see John'e skills utilized with a small scale infontry end tenk action geme, we'll promise not to citoose his machine gun.

Simon Fairell & Jon Sutherland

Graphics 大大
Saund 大
Toughtsoos 大大大大
Staying Pawer 大大
Value 大大大

IWO JIMA Commodore 64/128 PSS Price: £7.95/cass disk special offer only

Iwo Jime is the lettest in the Weigamers series from PSS. Written by the euthor of Palkiands '32, the similarities between the games cennot be gnosed. Whose Falkiands '32 similarities Hallians session of the Port Sterley, Iwo Jime semilates the US Matter Copie strack on the Idend of Iwo Jims in the pecific Ocean during WWII.

Considering the repid development in programming, we expected at least a few improvements over '82, but were disappointed

The object of the game is to land US Manne regiments on the selend, capture enfelds end (yawn) destroy the Japenese to the last Toyote. By use of either poysitick or keyboard, units etdesignered end then each must through the tedious process of etteck, movement or landing.

Play takes place in the usual tuin sequence of such games the player moves/fires/lands ell of this units, then the compute does the same for the Japenese. Combet is occompanied by possibly the worst machine-gurfire sound ever simulated on the Commodors.

At frequent intervals little ampliane icons fly ecross the scieen in 'bombing runs' or 'kamikeze' ettecks which ere made ell the more annoying by their apparent pointlesaness. No

doubt they meen something, but it'e not immediately obvioue to the player, and that's the cardinal sin of programming this type of game.

Terreln, minefields, heedquarters unts, erillery, tanks they'se all here, and the programmes obviously did e lot of background research, but the weelth of detail provided does little to znhance the pleyability of the game.

Graphically, the display is weaker then. Feliklands '82 — more detail, but everything is so cumped together on the screen that the existe blassle of pening at a timy soon to determine whether it's a tank or an infentioners, will probably lerve you with a perimenent squart. The Pacific Wa has never been a very populer wegeme





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GENEE CAPES STRONGMAN Commodore 64/128 Martech Price: £8.95/cass

Geoff Copes has a lot to be unhappy about lately First of all Commodors User spells his nema incorrectly on the front cover of the December issue (et. sorry.

Geoff, gravel grovell. Then his game a gyas shout three months late and, to top it all, the music that accompanies the final varsion is an notempo rendition of the Inmbergeck song I elso have e sneeking snspi

cion that he is not going to go overboard about the game orthor. Or et leest he wouldn't do if he were a seasoned 64 gamer

It's not that it's particularly bed - it'e just not going to earn Geoff Capes mage backs like Ocean's game did for Daley

Thompson It's just too intricate - and this intricecy is in no wey enterteining in the barrel loading avent, for example, you have to welk down the steps to the celler, hoist a beinel above vons head and take it back to the lowy.

The most difficult part of this is not the lift staelf but negotiating the steps. Put a foot wrong and you take a fell and must begin again.

Beginning again is another tadious part of the game. Each time you start a new event you heve to eligicate energy to each muscle and decide how much affort you are going to put in. This is a laborious business of

moving a cursor around Geaff's



n major muscles and press ing fire to make a bar chart appresentation of the energy fill up baside it. You need to



the met - you didn't est his wrestling suscles correctly

> Make Geoff's erm and leg muscles bulge in the Tugof War.

and carry it up the stairs and onto the

celculeta this carefully to snit eech avant.

The Tug-O-Wei calls for strong leas, log chopping strong erms, and so on it would have been better if you could have got this over and done with at the begin

ning of the geme That said, I did enjoy playing a number of the events. Rolling the car took a great dasi of skill and there was a great feeling of

achievement as it toppled over. Bashing the failground hammai to ring the bell was also fun aspecielly as I heve elweys wanted to heve a go on these machines

Over sil. I didn't get that much ont of the geme. The events ere too ispleted - with no inter connecting theme. It lacks the feeling that you see competing

for something

Geoff Capes Strongman ep peers to be one of the faw games I've sean that doesn't implove with its convaision to the 64 lt lecks the detail in the grephics that the original Amstrad version hed, end its icons are not incorpointed into the game like they were in that varsion. They are really just nnnecessery fulls on the 64 Most disappointing of all. the geme doesn't have the lorry pull event - which was the

highlight of the original This is a classic example of a game with a lot of promising new ideas that just doesn't work.

Breehics ** Sound *** Toughness *** Staying Power **





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No wonder the inhabitants even for the experienced

at the Parvin Frontier will payalmostanythingtoonyone who can get through to fhem with a freight ship full of supplies from the outside





captain of the Psi-5 Trading Company; because, needless to say, these marguders are not going to take too kindly to ony lost ditch efforts to spoil their little intergolloctic camage

So, if you're ripe for a stiff choilenge and feel comfortoble in the role of Space Freighter Captain, your ship lust came In.

Chanse your crew care-

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fully. For 10 years Al Zoff has been shooting enemy ottock cruisers to smithereens, but will his hot temper beyour final undoing? Your choice for weapons expert iscritical. You have a wealth of talent to choose from; but will your pick hold up in or your weapons?

the heat of the battle? As captoin of the Space Freighter, you must cons-tantly delegate authority throughout the mission. With space outlaws on the harizon, what do you repoir first-the defence shields Keyboord or Joystick Controlled Choice of
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It's looking really good - and all set for release In late March.

We reckon you're going to like Bomb Jack. So we've done a deal with Elite, exclusive to Commodore User gamers, in which you can get your hands on it for just £7.95 AND a free digital watch thrown in. That's two guld off the game Itself - how can you go wrong?

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Screen Scene Screen Scene Screen Scene





WINTER OLYMPICS Commodore 16 and Plus/4 Tynesoft Price: £6.95/disk

At first aight this looks premising. A version of the brilliant end hugely auccessful Winter Gemes for the C16. But, as luck would have it Winter Olympics turns out to be hugely disappoint Typesoft summ to have a talent for producing neff games and this one is no exception

Winter Olympics is actually six neff gemes in one package. If I was feeling chargeble I might say that one of them, ski selom, such diabolically had company.

so you know when the comers ere coming up. Probably the most difficult game to complete You must lean into the coincis to event hes potential, but is let down by bosing screen display. Skil Stelom: Guide your skier through the getes as in the real thing If you miss a gate you'le given a time penalty and if you hit one that's your lot. Speed up and slow down et ciuciel back/forwurde This was the only event that aroused my excite ment at ell. Although it doesn't take long to acquire enough skill to complete the course, the in centive is there to try and im-

Curling I just didn't understend what was going on here. What's more I got the feeling that if I had more interesting.

prove your time.

screen, the 16 controls the one on the bottom Wiggle the it wouldn't really have been only investick back and forth to make him go faste: It's more a ques Downfill: The same ea slelom. tion of timing and co-ordination only with trees instead of getes. I then sheet frentic wiggling felt conned. Denote that I managed to best

The only good thing I can find to say about Winter Olympics in

thet it's not as bad as Mount Vesuvius, i've mede a belated New Year resolution to avoid Tynesoft gemes end I'd advise you to steel well clear of this one.

Kan McMahor

Graphics *** Smand ** Taughoess ** Staying Power * Value *

Ski Jump - never knew it could be so easy.



ton at precisely the right moment to launch him into the au Pull back on the lovetick to land, then press fire to streighten up or you'll end up on your beckside. Tekes about five minutes to

best

Cresta Bun. You get a crosswas at least half decent, but it section view of the run with the only looks good because it's in sludge hopefully in the middle end overhead view of the joute

the computer on my second et-

tempt. After that the only option is to emprove on your personal

Ski Jump Some rice scenery

here, but total lack of gemepley

Your man flies down the slope

and you must press the fire but-

COMMANOO Commodore 16 and



This is the conversion all you reelise there's a bit of money to be made out of you? Well I think you're oning to be

pleased with this one. Elite have made a fewly good job of the conversion. Don't expect en easy rade though Commendo may be quicker to complete on the C16 but it's cartainly not easier

The action san't so tugger-fast as the 64 version, but you have to get to grips with the limited menoeuvreability of GI Joe Just pretend that he's got a prece of shipped in his leg or something

This means that he has to be shifted using fest stabs on the stick. Another edded problem is that the ground seems to have been plestered down with lerge dobs of Evestik, so poor Joe onto bogged down very easily.

The other nasty feeture of this geme is the wicked crossfire. If you atend still for a moment you cen wetch your lives tick eway like acconds off the clock

The key is to manoeuvie Joe into e position where he's in a sefe appt from the wicked crossfue Then shoot left end noht to take out the enemy positions. This will work with no pio blems on zone one, but is not ac easy on the next acreen. When you get cut down on this level se you most surely will, you will end un heck to souere one but

No complents here. The conversion works - which is more than can be said for some - and it has good graphics. This game Is a must for all C16 and Plus/4 nwners.

Mike Pettender

Graphics *** Sound ** Tourshouss *** Staying Power *** ***

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BOUNCE SCEN

POGO PETE Commodore 16 and Plus/4 Tynesoft

ISCORE

Price: £6.95/disk Tynesoft do for me what Kryp tonite does for Superman I have

not been impressed with their pest efforts on the 16

While I wested for it to load I turned to my usual source of inspeation, the inlay. You control e young boy, on e page stick, named Page Pete ' Funny name for a pogo stick, I wonder what the kid's celled.

4880381

-0002819

Anyway, the local kids have built an edventure playground in the street Pete has to bounce around over all the obstacles to

NOW IN PAURE HODE nake sure they're safe. And there's enother problam The kids have left e cruciel element out of the playground, a tile

So Peta's first job is to piece the tie in the correct position. When he's done this Pete doos a 'big bounce for joy', that's so as you know you've got the tile in the nght place - poseibly the eeslest and least interesting pert of the game. You just dump tiles all over the shop until you hit the noht place

It gets more interesting when Pete goes into 'decedeval mode'

of the screen to the other without touching the ground. If you succeed in eccomplishing this fairly tricky fest, you get to have a bash at the next ecreen. If you don't, then it's back to squere one, but not before poor old Pete's face goes ell out of shape, making him look like a perticularly ugly poteto.

I've made it sound a lot eesier then it is. There is, after all the houses meter to take account of This goes down every time you make a move ca. left, right, or upwerde. Now to get anto some obstecles you have to build up a feir bit of height, trempoline etyle, by bouncing e lot. Trouble ie, if the bounce meter goes off the ecale, it's ugly potato tene

All of this combines to make a really enroyable geme with a ferr degree of difficulty. There ere 24 ecreene in ell. The graphics on the four I sew were excellent ea was the sound. An original and fun geme Come back Tynesoft, all of forgiven.

Ken McMahor

Graphics	****

Staying Fower	

REACH-HEAD Commodore 16 and

Plus/4 US Gold/Access Price: £5.95/disk

All you C16 and Plue/4 owners out there must be licking your lion et the prospect of getting your hands on the the daddy of shoot 'em ups

The question though is how do you convert a game like Beach-Head - which is itself four emeller games in one - to fit into 16K? This was the possi that US Gold set Anirog when they asked them to do the job. Sadly Anuna couldn't work it out The problem is that the game

just won't function properly It would be foolberdy to expect it to measure up to the 64 version, but to be any good et all it should have at legat kept the fire button fun of the original Thus when you come to shoot

the planes down in the au ettack eceneno the gun fails to operate et any elevation below 30°C it is impossible also to treverse on the line of the plane, because you cennot shoot and menceuvre at the seme time. This means you get one shot at each

I found the only way to score at all was to leave the our in a fixed position in the centre of the screen and just wait for them to

These problems dog the game throughout For example in the second battle scenerio - the ees bertie - it was sometimes dif ficult to see who was firing at

you. Safe to say I struggled on A great shame ell of this

because the oranbics are from it looks great but just won't pley. Annug heve tried to squeeze the proverbiel quart Into e pint pot.

Scooling ++++ Sound *** Toughness **** Staving Power & Velon de



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Commodore 64 Chart GALLUP

Chart Chat

A minor hiccup this week stops Yie Ar Kung Fu being number one. So you saam to think the inferior Kung Fu Mester is better?

No Undium or Zoids yat because of the timing of this Chart. Have no fear thay'll be there.

Nica to see our Cheepo of the Month. Kane performing so well among the big boye. Beers out what we said last month. Surprising though, to

see Mercenary making a descent down the Chert already - wa thought it would have had more staying power.

There should be no isal surprise at the entry of an advantura tha quality of Lord of the Rings into the number 16 spot even though the presence of such

games is rare. Meanwhile on the C16 front Mastertronic carry on laughing all the way to the bank. Next month in Commendo month, so be prepared for us to say - told you sol

TOTE OF CT	COST C MINISTERNATION
NEW War	
NEW Kung Fu Master	The state of the s
Wrocki-	US Gold
THE AT KUDO FIL	Melbourne House
Cidolon	Imagine
Ispinae	Activision
Maile	Gremlin Graphics
Koronis Rift	Mastertronic
Mercenary	Activision
Commando	Novagen
Winter Game	Elite
Back to at	
namno	Epyx/US Gold
The Last V8	Electric Dreams
Desert Fox	Ocean
Kik Start	Mestertronic
lord -	US Gold
Lord of the Rings	Mastertronic
New Game II	Methourne House
They Sold a Million	Virgin
one Man and ki-	Hit Squad
Action Biker	Mastertronic
	Mastertronic
-	Olific

General

	ricial	
n	Yie Ar Kung Fu	Imagine
NEM	Kung Fu Master	US Gold
(3)	Formula 1 Simulator	Mastertronic
NEW	Rock 'N' Wrestle	Melbourne House
(5)	Winter Games	US Gold
1	Elita	Firebud
(7)	Commando	Elite
(1)	Hypersports	lmegine
(9)	BMX Racars	Mastertionic
(10)	Action Bikar	Mastiritronic

P16

L	6	-
4	Big Mac	Mastertronic
(2)	Forumal 1 Simulator	Mastertronic
(3)	Tetti Fretti	Mastertronic
4	BMX Recers	Mastertronic
(5)	Kung Fu Kid	Gremlin Grephics
(6)	Rockman	Mastertronic
O	Squirm	Mastertronic
4	Vagas Jackpot	Mastertronic
NEW	D T Star Events	Ocean
NEW	Spoctopede	Mastertronic



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Beter Gerrard is the former adjor of Commodore Computing International He and Kevin Bergin are co-authors of The Complete Commodore 64 ROM Disessembly.







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Licence to Kill

Robtek's Game Killer reviewed

by Daniel Gilbert

If you just can't reach that final screen or the next level or knock up a decent score, don't use a mallet on your tape, let Game Killer loose on it. Game Killer? Yeah, it gives you infinite lives and access to all play levels. Go on, tell us another . . .

The Game Killer package is simply a cartridge and a sheet of instructions. It fits easily into the port on the rear of your 64 and having powered-up, you are con-fronted by an impressive 'tutle screen' complete with scrolling message, jumping sprites and a very striking tune, written by tridge then relinquishes control, giving you the standard power-up screen and you are now free to load a game

Dressed to Kill

The cartridge has three methods of operation: Robtek suggest trial-and-error to find which suits the particular game you are nlavane. They are as follows: Method 1: disables all the sprite colli-

- sions in the game to ensure that "nothing can kill you now".
- Method 2: disables only sprite-to-sprite collisions. Method 3: disables sprite-to
- background collisions.

These varieties are achieved by pressing a small (and somewhat fiddly) red button on the side of the cartridge, which results in the screen blanking momentarily and play resuming with no sprite collisions The two alternative modes are accessed

by moving the joystick up or down when pressure the button. Having done this you may then play the game in 'cheai mode' until you wish to resume normal play. This is achieved by pressing the button and holding fire down on the joystick 'All well and good,' you may think, 'let's

get on and rattle up some large scores' or maybe see the elusive final screen on a few of the more demanding games Unfortunately this is not the whole story.

The problems begin (fairly obviously) on games which do not rely on sprite collisions to create their element of difficulty. Such is the case with games like Boulder Dash, where more complex theory is used in programming than "have you been



Further problems develop with the inverse of this problem - games which rely entirely on sprite collision for the greater part of game-play, notably Exploding Fist. In such cases the Game Killer is totally inapplicable. For instance, if collisions are annulled in this classic, then presumably you and your opponent will just wander around the screen for the duration. If the game doesn't rely on sprite collisson, there will be absolutely no effect. Either way, the cartridge is ineffective

This is by no means the end of the story. Take a game such as Bounder in which sprites account for both enemies (Exocets, darts, Lasers etc) and bonuses (Copyrights, Bees etc). In this particular game it became quite tedious and often infurniting to constantly switch between collisions on and off. When you reach for the 'little red button', you would mesatime lose a life or two falling off platforms, bumping into walls etc. (The pause mode was not great help as running out of manouevring room was the usual problem).

Staying with Bounder a little longer, at times a sprite collision is necessary to activate teleporis and the like, with a similar 'time-lapse' problem occuring in going for

There are obviously other situations in



which the Geme Killer is unusable; cartridge games, for instance (say no more!). But more likely are the new generation games which are not just down to 'being hit'. The sort of game we've seen developed over the past few months, of the very detailed, semi-strategic type: Koronis

Raft, Eudolon, Rock 'N' Wrestle, Mercenary, are simply not prone to this type of 'cheating'. Particularly invulnerable are In fact it is difficult to think of any 'new'

game on which this device would be more marginally useful. To give it credit, it is better suited to the old Llamasoft programs such as Revenge, or maybe Jet Set Willy where once the sprites are disabled the game is a breeze. Games such as Arabian Nights become

far easier, as does Impossible Musion. In fact, the general impression I was left with, was that far from being for arcade game bushing, this is simed at your common-or-

garden platform game.

Conclusions

So it seems that Game Killer is only truly useful in a small number of arcade games and a fair number of platform/exploration games. The problem is that although it is extremely useful as an application, it can only be applied to relatively few games What I feel would be more useful is a utility to isolate sprites, perhaps giving complete control - movement, collision, visibility, maybe even extending its powers to other aspects of the game Perhaps I am judging this too har-

shly and there are people out there who want to crack games that this device will tackle, but somehow I think they'll find that to beat the new generation games they'll need the original method - bloodyminded determination, a lot of practice and even more patience.

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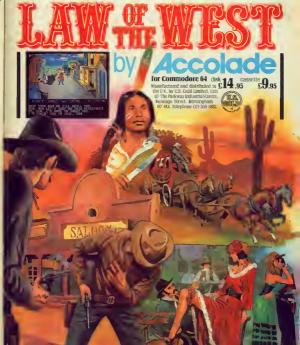
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Odd couple

THE DATEL COM-DRUM

The Com-Drum is the latest drum machine for the 64 that uses digitally sampled sound rather than synthesised sound. Simply put, it means you should get more realistic dram sounds. It costs just £29.95. That's much less than a commercial digital drum machine which can set you back up to £1,000.

The Com-Drum package consists of a cartridge and software on either tape or



disk. The cartridge is an oversized affine that looks to have nothing in it except a few chips and two jack sockets out the back

These are for sound output to an amplifier and synchronisation to other electronic instruments. As you'll have guessed, you don't get sound output from a TV or monitor There's a consolation in all this; you really need an amplifier as the sound quality is very good, with hardly any background noise.

The Software

The editing software is menu driven and generally easy to use. Once this is up and running, you must then load one of the three drumkits provided. Each drumkit contains eight different percussion sounds rapping from best drums to tom-toms and hand claps. Datel are planning to launch further 'drumkits' in the near future for use with the Com-Drum.

Once a dramkst is loaded you are ready to start drumming. One option on the main menu will allow you to play the drums 'live' by pressing keys I to 8 to The most useful utilities for the 64 are thase that make the most of its superb saund and graphics. We've rounded up two of the latest afferings in these areas: the Cam-Drum, a drum machine and CAD-64 a drawing program fram Orpheus.

correspond to each drum. This is useful to get a general idea of how each instrument

The software also allows up to eight rhythm patterns of 32 bars each to be edited, either in real or step time. I found that only having eight patterns available at

any time was a little restricting. I would have preferred a minimum of twenty. The drums are separated into three groups, and only one drum from each group can be sounded simultaneously. In practice, this is not a limitation, and in fact



mimics the way teal drummers would play their kit. So, for instance, a bass drum, sture drum and he hat can all be sounded on the same beat, but a snare drum, hi-tom and lo-tom cannot.

Song Editor

Once you're satisfied with the rhythm patterns you can string them together using the song editor option, and up to eight songs can be held in memory at once. A song is created by combining up to sixreen phrases, each of which are made un of a rhythm pattern and the number of tunes to repeat it. This gives ample

playing time for the average song Ooce you have completed a song you can give it a title, which also copies it to the existing library of eight songs. These can then be saved to disk or tape

Unfortunately, I found that the eight songs that come with the software were dreadfully boring, and did not really reflect what could be achieved with a bit more effort

Conclusions

Overail, the Com-drum performed well, but I felt that a few small changes to the software would improve its performance. In particular, I would prefer the maximum tempo to be much faster, as this would make possible quick fill-ins or snare drum rolls at the end of a pattern (listen to any Howard Jones record to hoar how effective

Still, at £30 Com-Drum is a bargain, and very handy for the solo musician who likes to practice with some form of backing.

Jeremy Hall

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ORPHEUS CAD

At first sucht, CAD 64 seems almost to good to be true. A package that offers 3-D perspective (sometimes called 24-D)





you an idea of the capabilities.

drawings with hidden line temoval plus animation might be expected to cost a lot

CAD 64 offers all these for only £18.95 (£14 95 on cassette), cheaper than most other 2-D drawing packages. Included in the price is the 40 page manual and a

number of examples on the disk to rive Wealth of Features

Desorte using several other CAD nackages on the 64, I was instally overwhelmed by the apparent scope of this program. No longer was it a case of drawing a circle here, a rectangle there, plus a bit of freehand drawing; suddenly there were things called 'alices', viewing distances, viewing angles, magnification factors and such like.

My initial efforts, sticking to something simple like a cube or a pyramid were reasonably successful. I say 'reasonably' because they didn't always turn out the way the manual suggested, but more of that later. Since it was obviously going to take a while to become expert at creating drawings I tried working with some of the examples on the disk.

You'll see from the drawings of the shuttle that the ability to move the object in space (no pun intended) by altering the latitude and longitude viewing coordinates is a very powerful feature. Having drawn an object you can view it at virtually any angle you wish.

The 'menu' at the side of the drawings is what you get on the screen in 'viewing' mode; the whole program is driven by similar menus with the options being selected by a moving scon (a pointing

The animate facility allows you to change all the viewing parameters in variable steps over a selected number of changes; you can even vary the time

interval between steps

Ease of use

The program can be controlled using a joystick or keyboard, but the method is identical for both. Since you can only get a few options on each menu at a time, you keep popping back and forth between different modes, which I found a little confusing at first

Much more serious than this, is that the program is very unforming of errors Sometimes I selected the wrong menu option by mistake and couldn't get out of it - hitting 'RESTORE' should normally

get you back to the command menu Mistakes while drawing are also difficult to remedy since there is no 'undo' function, you have to select an 'erase'

brush and then repeat the error? On the plus rade, there are several features which save you a lot of work. By specifying the start point you can then draw a figure merely by telling the program how many sides it has. You can then convert this to a 3-D object by specifying the 'depth' of the object, thus guaranteeing the object is symmetrical.

Load and Save

Drawings can be loaded and saved to disk either as simple objects or as complete screens (eg with associated text etc). Objects can then be recalled for use in

other programs, a nice touch Unfortunately that is the only good thing about the disk access routines. There is no facility to access the directory, there is no check on the disk error changel and the real killer is that when you type in a file name, you cannot edit any mustakes, since the DEL key is disabled. Not only that, but the keyboard scan is so slow that if you are a fast typist the program only registers every other character you type.







Print it out

You can obtain either a screen dump, which includes the menu and settings, or an enlarged 'pacture only'. The problem with the latter is that the drawing is expanded in the borizontal plane



compared to the screen; not much use if you want scale drawings. The other limitation is that the program

will only work with an Enson printer attached to User-port. The suppliers say you can contact them for advice if you have a different combination, but you will have to wait for the new version if you have a Commodore printer.

The Manual

A program as complex as this must have a good manual. This one tries hard, but falls at too many fences. There are several errors and it leaves out certain viral instructions which makes it difficult for the beginner. Once you know yout way round the program then the manual is reasonable, giving you summaries of the menus, a glossary of terms and a

reasonable contents page. There's a number of screen dumps in the manual, but despute following the instructions I didn't always get the same results, which made me wonder whether

they had left out some of the instructions. Conclusions

While the features are second to none when compared to other CAD packages for the 64. I found it such a difficult program to use that I would have to want the features very badly indeed to put up with it

As for the file access mode, that needs urgent revision before I could recommend this program to anyone. The delete key must be re-enabled and the keyscan routine speeded up, as well as providing proper disk error handling

With so much good software available for the 64, software houses can no longer get away with this casual approach towards user-friendliness. \$19 may not seem a lot for what you are getting, but Pd rather pay £25 and get a program which pays attention to auch detail.

Chris Durham

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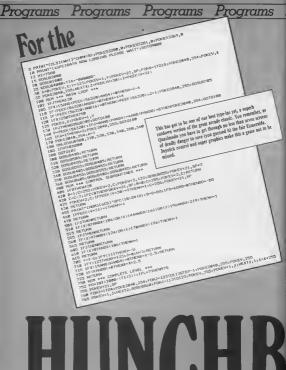
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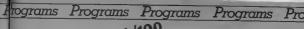


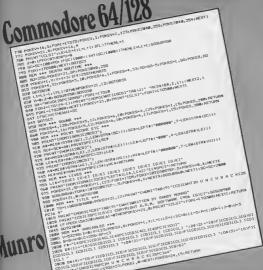
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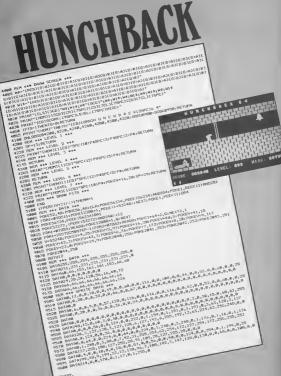






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MISSILE

A short, clever and original game that has you guiding a missile to hit a moving target. The spacebar fires the missile and you make it change direction using the left and right arrows. If you miss the target, simply circle round and try hilling it from a different angle. It's wierd, it's fun.

10 REM***MISSILE BY T H JAMES.3/1/86FORTHECI6*** 20 VOLB: COLORO, 14, 6: COLOR4, 6: SC=3072: CL=2048 30 DIMDR% (7, 1): DIMMC% (7): EX=-1:LV=1 40 FOR I = OTO7: READDR%(I, 0): READDR%(I, 1): NEXT: FOR I = OTO7: READMC%(I): NEXT 50 DATA1, 0, 1, -1, 0, -1, -1, -1, -1, 0, -1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 62, 78, 30, 77, 60, 78, 33, 77 60 PRINT"[CLS][RED][3CD]" 70 PRINT"[13SPC]MISSILE, " 80 PRINT"[BLK][2CD][13SPC]CONTROLS" 90 PRINT"EL BLUJEZCDJC7SPCJ<E3SPCJTURN MISSILE LEFT* 100 PRINT"(CD3(7SPC3)[3SPC3TURN MISSILE RIGHT" 110 PRINT"[CD][7SPC]SPACEBAR FIRES MISSILE" 120 PRINT"C2CD1C10SPC3RETURN TO START" 130 GETAS: IFAS=""THEN130 140 IFASC(A\$)<>137HEN130 150 PRINT"[CLS][BLU][16SPC]MISSILE." 160 PRINT"[BLK][CTRL@][16SPC][BB(+]" 170 GBSUB650: K=0: N=LV*5: PC=0 180 FORI=0T039:POKE4032+I,104:PDKE3008+I,57:NE) 190 POKE4050, B5: POKE4051, 66: POKE4052, 73 200 MX=2: MY=22: D=2: F*="" 210 GETAS: TN=TN+I 220 IFA\$<>" "THEN260 230 SQUND3, 750, 5: SQUND3, 765, 5: SQUND3, 780, 5: SQUND3, 795, 10 240 PT=PT-I:PC=PC-1:G0SUB650 250 POKESC+40*MY+MX, 32:MY=22:MX=19:D=2:POKESC+40*MY+MX, MC%(D):F\$="F" 260 IFF\$=""THEN360 270 PBKESC+40*MY+MX, 32: PBKECL+40*MY+MX, 0 280 MX=MX+DR%(D.O): MY=MY+DR%(D.1) 290 IFMX<00RMX>390RMY<20RMY>23THEN200 300 TG=PEEK (SC+40*MY+MX) 310 IFTB<>32THENGQSUB540: GQTQ210 320 POKESC+40*MY+MX.MC%(D):POKECL+40*MY+MX.0 330 IFAs=", "THEND=D+I:IFD>7THEND=0 340 IFA** ". "THEND=D-1: IFD<0THEND=7 350 SOUND1, 1000-ABS(EX-MX)-ABS(EY-MY), 3 360 IFTN<6-LYTHEN210 370 TN=0: [FEX >=OANDEX <= 39THEN410 380 FORI=1T010:98UND2,900-5*I,4:FORJ=1T04:NEXTJ:NEXTI 390 EX=0:ED=1:IFRND(0)>.STHENEX=39:ED=5 400 EY=INT(RND(0)*B+RND(0)*8+2) 410 POKESC+40*EY+EX, 32 420 IFEY+DR%(ED, 1)<3THENEY=3:ED=INT(RND(0)*5+4):B0T0490 430 IFEY+DR%(ED. I):23THENEY=23:ED=INT(RND(0)*5):G0T0510 440 EX=EX+DR%(ED.O):EY=EY+DR%(ED.I) 450 ED=ED+INT(RND(0)*3)-1 460 IFEX<OTHENEX=1:ED=INT(RND(0)*4+6) 470 IFEX>39THENEX=3B: ED=INT(RND(0)*5+2) 480 IFED OTHENED=ED+7

490 IFED >7THENED=ED-7

ISSILE

500 EG=PEEK (SC+40*EY+FX)

510 POKESC+40*EY+EX.65: POKECL+40*EY+EX.49

520 IFEG<>\$2THENGOSUB540

530 GOTTI210

540 POKESC+40*MY+MX.42:PT=PT+5*LV+1:PC=PC+5*LV+I 550 FORI=1T025: SOUND3, 1000-5*1,5: NEXT

560 FORI=60T0127: POKECL+40*MY+MX, I: NEXT

570 F\$="": PGKESC+40*MY+MX.32: X=19: MY=22: EX=-1: K=V+1 580 IFK< NTHEN650

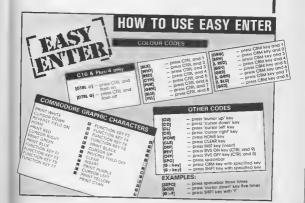
590 FGRI=1T020+2*LV:S0UNDI,600+1*5,5:S0UND2,900-4*I,5:FGRJ=1T05:NE*:J:NE/:J

600 PRINT"EBLK1E5CD1E4CRILEVEL ":LV: " COMPLETED." 610 PRINT"[CD][4SPC]TOUGHNESS = ":100*PC/(N*5*LV); "%

620 PRINT"[20DIEYEL][4SPC]RETURN TO CONTINUE"

640 PRINT"[HOM][CD][2SPC][RED]SCORE [YEL]"[PT:GBT0130

650 PRINT"[HOM1[CD][25PC][RED]SEGRE [YEL][65PC][6CL]";PT:RETURN



bv

THJames

Computer

Resident magician Phil Cornes has been ploughing through an ever-increasing mailbag of your Magic Tips for the 64, and he's included some in this month's magical offering. Don't be left out, if you've gat a brilliant little trick up your

sleeve that makes your 64 do weird and wonderful

things, send it to us and win youself a Cammodare User T-shirt:

Computer Mogle, Commodore User, 30-32 Farringdon Lone, London ECIR SAU.

Room To Spare

The 64 has no taclity to let you determine the amount of free memory space that remains omoun of the methors space that remains for Basic programs and data. So, the tollownor scale programs and adia, so, the solicity-ing program loads a machine code-routine into memory at location 49452 that will proyide just this tacility.

To use the routine, you just type the command line. SYS 49152. This will call the machine code routine which calculates the tree space remaining for Basic programs and prints out the result on the next line as a

The routine as given here loads and executes at address 49 152 as set up in line 10.
But the routine itself is completely decimal number relocatable so that it can operate at any relocatable so linar if can operate at any convenient place in memory All you need to do is to change line 10 to the following:

10 FOR C = ADDR TD ADDR + 12 Where ADDR is the new load and executive address for the routine.

10 FOR C = 49152 TD 49164 20 READ B : POKE C.6 : NEXT C 20 HEAD 8 : PDKE C.6 : NEXT C 30 DATA 56,166,65,229,45,170,165 40 DATA 56,229,46,76,205,189 Dieplay FREE memory size.

Easy Reset

From time to time, you may have several important machine code subroulines in memory that you want to keep in memory. memory man you want to keep in a telling you while at the same time NEWIng a Basic program and generally resetting the machine

his pawer on state. This can all be achieved by tilting a reset to its power on state. this can all be achieved by tilting a reservantch as outlined in part 1 of Magic. However, if you're completely useless with a soldering iron, then here is a simple command to achieve the same effect:

This preserves your machine code but calls the 64's power on reset routine without switching of the power. Simple, really Jimmy Webb. Swansea

Chopper SID

The SID chip is quite a complex device to program to make it produce reasonable sounds However, I discovered that with the tollowing simple program the CSA could be made to produce the sound of a helicopter. isst by repeatedly changing the master volume control byte

Nik Kimberiey Wolverhampton

10 REM HELICOPTER SOUND FX 20 REM BY N.K. JAN 86 30 PDKE 54296,15 40 PDKE 54296,7 50 FOR T = 1 TD 100: NEXT T

60 GDTD 30 Helicopter sound listing

Home-Grown Characters

very often, when writing games for your 64. It would be nice to have access to some new characters, o space invades characters, of space invades character, for example, instead of houring to make do with example, instead of houring to make a with sombinations are standard characters, sent to sent the continuation of the character characters and the sent that the character characters are sent to the character characters and the character characters are characters.

combinations of existing characteristics of the 64. The standard characteristics of the 64 the standard characteristics of the 64 the standard characteristics of this Rob. standard be altered. To extend the characteristic of the first of t

Islands etc will make sense listings following pagaran copies palls and horacter set into poly at tocation palls then switches the Vic chip to use this block of then switches the Vic chip to use this block of the switches the Vic chip to use this block of the wild block of the vice of the unemary for the arcater set data unemary for the vice of the enter and Rully with sprograms, ensequence, ing line as a direct command securior.

Ing line as a area.

POKE 44,64: POKE 16384,0: NEW POKE 44,64: POKE 16384,0: NEW This second command line moves your Basic This second command in emory to make toom to programs up in memory to make toom to the RAM version of the character set, Now the RAM version of the character set, Now and RAM the following program:

onter Ond Rule 4 10 POKE 56334, PEEK (56334) ANO 254 20 POKE 1, PEEK (1) ANO 251

30 FOR A = 0 TO 511 40 POKE 2048 + A. PEEK (53248 + A) :

NEX1 A 50 POKE 1, PEEK (1) OR 4 50 POKE 56334, PEEK (56334) OR 1 70 POKE 53272, (PEEK (63272) ANO 240) + 2

After RUNning this program, the 64 will use the memory from 2048 to 4095 to hold its the memory from 2048 to 4095 to hold its the property set.

character set.

Note that the set of the set

100 PRUM 1971 110 FOR T = 1 TO 1000 : NEXT T 110 FOR C = 0 TO 7 : READ B 120 FOR C = 0 TO 7 : READ B 130 PONE C + 2568,8 : NEXT C 130 PONE C + 2568,5 : NEXT C 140 QATA 128,255,153,153,126,126, 66,126

Remarkable Highlights

You list your lated Basic program, posting for a subroutine somewhere that you do not hours a bug. As you reach fire eighted routine grom, you reast find the required routine grom, you reast find the required and you managed to stall by unnaffed and you managed to look all over again. But there's a novel to look all over again.

solution.

It is possible to fool the old's UST routine Into
It is possible to fool the old's UST routine Into
PRINTING octour change characters during
the Issing of a program.

In this way, you
and you subcounties is white,
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In the program octoin UST octoin UST octoin UST octoin

In the program octoin UST octoin

scrolls by during USTing, scrolls by during REMark statements con-How? — by using REMark statements containing special control character setaining special control

quences, as follows.

Each time you want to change colour,
Each time like the tollowing at the place
enter a line like the tollowing at the place
where colour change is to occur
where colour change is to occur.

where colour change is to occur.

REM "" (DELI CTRUS) ISINFT/MI (SCI QUE).

REM "" (DELI CTRUS) ISINFT/MI (SCI QUE).

Where each pain of square brackets include the same change change is to the strike of the same single change is to colour the same single change is the same single change is the same single change is the same single change in the same single change is the same single change in the same single change is the same single change in the same single change is the same single change in the same single change is the same single change in the same sin

Slington.
BLACK
WHITE
REO
CYAN

CYAN
PURPLE
GREEN
BLUE
YELLOW
ORANGE
BROWN
LIGHT REO
OARK GREY
MEOUM GREY
LIGHT GREEN
LIGHT GREEN
LIGHT GREY

(SHIFT/P)
[E]
[DUNO SIGN]
[CBM/*]
[UP ARROW]
[LET ARROW]
[SHIFT/UP
[SHIFT/UV]
[SHIFT/VV]
[SHIFT/VV]
[SHIFT/VV]
[SHIFT/X]

SHIFT/Y

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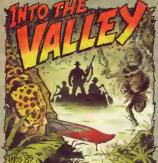
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Adventure

office, and from then on it's (and there are many, many of instantly-drawn graphic, pext to which is a panel that gives you a features, and to serve as a lazy way of suputting the most

verbs, nouns and movements you choose. with objects and often significant o strong and entertaioing

points of detail. Most of them story line, really excellent example, the water bubbles in pleyobillty newsvendor's dug wags his tail. One of the really nice things once you've dodged toto the

You can also use the function to issue the commands TELL

The disk includes a living

It's not vary often that o using a joystick to 'point' at the gama of any kind marks unreserved recommandation but Borrowed Time is one of Those pictures are crammed those care exceptions. It has

are cleverly animated so that, for geophica, end instent Graphics

Pazzinability Dvarall. ****

Ngs ell inammata objects are speachless. Asking questions and examining every object more closely can take you in the next right

JOHN RANSLEY

It's a case of the good, the bad and the chappo this month. Borrowed Time and Alternative Reality get the credits. Mastartronic (who else) provide the cheap thrills and Star Trek reaches its final frontier - end flops.

Borrowed Time GrA Activision Price: £14.99 disk get some fresh air - but as you loud tie and an ever louder .38 pays you more attention than a

When you start playing Borrowed Time (with a starting he Noise of angry traffic drifts know is that you're a third-rate drowning out the discordant ocreate investigator with the kind of fans that would like to

salvage sale desk. You snatch up see you in a wooden box. But you soon realise that Acvoice drails a warning into your tivision's latest offering sets a car, it seems a good moment to new standard of quality and

Over-reacting can get you into trouble in Borrowed Time, where the hoodiums' bit can be much worse





nearby flonhouse to escape the stages without too much obstruc tion - just the way it should be.

Cleverly, you can also enter full sentences in the way more experienced players prefer and the parser will cope with them

The game includes some particularly well thought-out player

a single command, such as of the game, but there's also a routine that allows you to freeze' and 'unfreeze' your

Se-Kan of Assiah Grā Mastertrenic Price: £1.99/cass

Ukay, so you don't have a disk drive sod you don't have £14 99 and you rhink that the Valley's you to a very tamy two-part 96K adventure with 170 graphic £1 99? It's called Se-Kan of A touch of a key bllows you to

toggle between Borrowed Time's aplendid graphics and the text screan, giving a raviaw of the most recent inputs and



nture Adventure Adventu ture Adventure



Sa kan of Assiah - all the features of a good quality adventure for a fifth of the

Assiah and it's from Master-

the cares of Castle Dread, where you're meant to retrieve three

something like that Back to the village Ah - a well! ble around a little more and suddenly a cloak appears from the beaverts, and then a nem studded staff Funny - they weren't here

Seems you have to make a few

lust when I'm beginning to think that this is a very selly same, Beerd arrives with some and then leaves with the news that he's left the castle doors open for me - but lost souls

Nice graphics, and the old red

value for money, offering all number of banks and shops, and the quality, entertainment a few smithies and healers. and features you'd expect Maybe you should make for one

there's a help feature, and secret doors and one-way we you can Save a game

Graphica Playability +++ Puzzlosbility

Alternative Reality Grå Datasoft/US Gold Price: £14.95

've been lusting after a chance to get my mits on Alternative Reality ever since I saw a sneak

tuite of seven or eight games that

it's all three and much more besides.

the very first moments. At first restores your stamma

You have a little money to about, though - 'cos if you do, begin with, and you're advised to those horrible little purple out a compass at the top of your and I'm falling through space, at the top of the screen will sug I'ts all gone dark, I'm m a huge gest the tasks you're bestblack 100m. But wait, I can just equipped to handle. But there of challenge If you're make out something drawn on are plenty of places to visit and prepared to give it the conthe well. It's a Chad saying, you'd better make a start soon.

Se-kan of Assiah la terrific several mos and taverns, a

from more expensive games. of the fourteen guilds You could Geaphies are very good, try freding one of the many

It's a lattle difficult to pigeon- that are a feature of the city hole The City - the first in a (great sound effects if you're

A smith will sell you a new

weapon, a bank may lend you money, and healers can be useful ment or a strategy game? Well, too. Not all guilds will welcome you at first - but you'll slwsys in the middle of the action from there's plenty of treasure, gents

> You'll also have to learn to live with (and survive) a great many wrzards, assassins and imps! In just a few hours of play !

won't pretend that I've even begun to scratch the surface of Alternative Reality but It's quality through and through, offering a very superine kind centration and time (lots of For example, the city has that) it deserves.

Graphics **** Playability Pazzlasbūtty ++++ Overall ****



Alternate Reality - and this is only the beginning A strenge alien spacecraft is almost the least of your difficulties in a game that requires more strategy than a tango with a scorpion

■ ADVENTURE NEWS • ADVENTURE NEWS • ADVENTURE NEWS • ADV the new Consumer Electronics

Activision seem to have best everyone else to the post in producing the world's first graphic adventures for the Amiga. Hacker and Borrowed Time will be out any day - end it you thought the graphics on the 64 were good,

Whara have all the new adventures releases gone? My guess is that a number of the UK's top software houses are keeping a lew surprises up their sleeves for

Show at Olympia this month, Sorry, it's a trade-only event to which the won't be edmitted. But watch out tor my special report and exclusive scraen shots of the best new adventures at the show.

· incanlive Softwara have contirmed that they will be producing a 64 version of the Amstrad by a computer sciences rave reviews for its simplicity of operation and excellent results. Price will be around £22.95 tape. £27 95 disk. Call Incentive Sottware

Supersoti are now handling the Print-Technik digitiser that can up to tour colours from a vidao disk, and Incorporate them in graphic adventures - that's it you've got £150 to spere. More details from Supersoft on 01-861

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_by Adam Billyard



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Adventure Adventure Adventure Adventure

a Tasksaf's plans to launch a C84/128 version of Souls of Darkon have now If seems disappeared down the tubes together with the rest of the company's future. Tasksat chief Andy Walker, had hoped to get Souls out in time for Easter, but this was dashed by his dacision to close the company. At press time thara saamed no sign of a buyer for Taskset, so there's little chance of the company's debut adventure ever being seen.

a Infocom, responsible for Zork, Deadline and Hitchhiker's Guide have run out of hints to survival and have been sold to Activision for around £7 million, Infocom, wara in trouble for most of last year after a disastrous mova ento business software, and recently said goodbye to 15 staff and co-tounder Marc Blanc. At Christmas, they

appointed Softsal as their Brifish distributors and promised cuf-price CP/M varsions of old fifles plus altnew versions for the Amiga, but none of that happened. In recent months, Activision have been faking a much higher profile in tha adventure sector end hava won acclaim for titles such as Mindshadow and The Tracer Sanction. They're took-alive marketing expertise ie likely to mean some pleasant surplaas ahead for adventurers on both sidas

of the Atlantic. # Modem House have only just couched up the Micronef alzmo I've baan waiting three months to arrive apologies to Valley readers who've sent me maliboxes but didn'f gef any response. I'd be really pleased to receive any comments and suggastions you may have, but no "How do I . . .?" queries, please. I just don't have the resources to deal with them and thera's always Micronet's Adventura Helplina II you're really stuck My Prestel Mallbox number is 919995001.

Advanture International's worstkepf sacret is that thay've been having meaningful discussions with megasuccessful disfributors US Gold. Interestingly enough, Al thamsalves started as purely a marketing operation for Scott Adame, buf wifh the success of Gremlins and Robin Hood, and with very liffle coming from the States fhese days, it's thought that Al chief Mike Woodruffe and co-writer Brian Howarth now want to concentrate on writing more blockbusters and let someone else handle fhe marketing of them.

Scintillating screen display!?

■ ADVENTURE NEWS • ADVENTURE NEWS • ADVENTURE NEWS • ADVE

Star Trek - Tha Kobayashi Advantura Ta Simon and Schuster Price: N/A (disk only)

You'd expect Star Trek: The Kobsvashl Adventure which is the first-ever adventure

has managed to do so with apmust have had her head in a

that contain various responses waiting for the replies.

There are a load of numbers along the bottom of the screen I'm told there are no plans

to market it in the UK, for which we can only be truly grateful. Beam me up Scotje! - Scott Adams, that is.



Star Trek - just a passing phase? The adventure

KRTREK

1 (2) The land of the Riney - DSA176 Melbourne Month, Grk. 115 (5) 2 (6) Boombark's Receipt - DSA178 Receipt Subserve, Grk. 1956)

3 (I) The Worm in Paradrise — C641/28 (Level 9, StA, E7,95) 4 (5) Doest for the Roly Great - C65(178) Masterionic, GrA, 11,99) 5 110 Macquerate - Charl 28 US America Movembers, Gra. 114.95 dols only J.

6 (6) The Berssey - C64/128 (Duckworth, TA, F9.95)

7 (3) Sees of Blood - 5641728 (Movedure International, 67A, 19.95) 8 (A) Secret Brary of Narian Mode CSA[178 (Moranc, GrA, 17.95) 3 (7) The Never ending Stery - DSA1128 (Ozasa Sollware, Gr.A., E9.95)

19 (ii) Robin of Sharwood — DSA[178] (Mohesium International, GrA, E785).

Lord of the Rongs (still classes an explaints) place as the bord of the balloy's Top Ten has month. And untrilinent quencions will combine ensure to some for a large room care on a contract. Activated that ground states were appeared by the decision at the control of the

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The second of Source News (Assertion of Source) was the second of Source News (Assertion of Source). bodder remote, the last a manifying the occasion of burn 1 letteron, Deposit one or the first of the days of managers after that been improved the buck. nor by sea such see free grant of a meanight specif it and event suscensively seed units.

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SUPER SLEUTH Comp.

WIN 'Borrowed Time'

American authors beat everybody when it comes to writing gripping, gritty and gutsy detective stories with the hero as a hard drinking, tough living, fast-talking, but deep-down decent our — shucks

Thrillers like these have provided the inspiration for Masquerade (reviewed last month and now in our charts) and Activision's letest and (I'd say) best-aver graphic adventure, Borrowad Time.

Activision, not wishing 'de boys' to pay them a visit, are donating ten copies of Borrowed Time tor this month's Valley competition.

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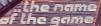
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by Geoff Wheelwright 4 into 1 won't go

Last month we featured two 128 programs; this month we're back to the good old 64 for a look at Team-Mate, one of the new generation of integrating business programs — it should soon be available on the 128, too.

Team-Mate reviewed



Team-Mate disk, you get a version for the Atars 800 and 130XE machines. There are even the same kind of 'splitscreen' windows as on the failed Com-

modore business machine - with the same commands used to switch between them. For example, TC takes you to the mini-spreadsheet, TW takes you to the wordprocessor.

Loading up

Starting at the begittning, Team-Mate of fers four major applications facilities including was direcessing, database development, spreadsheet modelling and business

As there usn't enough memory in the machine to offer these applications together all at once, so there are several options for leading them which offers them together in various combinat I found this to be a confusing and un-

necessarily complicated way of arranging things. It was further detracted from by a truly awful manual - which actually served to add greater confusion. The mannal mixes instructions for use with the Atari version and the 64 edition. It switches back and forth between these with impunity and makes it virtually impossible for you to find your way round the documentation with any ease.

facility



Team-Mere can be loaded in many combinations of programs

All this would perhaps have been forgiveable if the applications themselves had been any good. Unfortunately, I was no more impressed by the applications within Team-Mate than I was by the Plus/4 built-in software on which it seems to be based. Let's look at the sections individually

The wordprocessor: this uses the annoying 77-character 'scroll-across' method of displaying text - so that you can never see even so much as a complete sentence on-screen at once. I much prefer either the 40-column mode with an 80-column 'preview' as used by Easyscript or the

The word 'integrated' seems to have become a magic formula for classy business software — if it doesn't integrate, don't bother buying it, say the know-alls Even bumble machines like the 64 naw have an integrating state of software It's called Team-Mate It's cheap

((34.95), it combines a wordprocessor, database, spreadsheet and hi-res graphics, it's all on a single disk - and it's American (in actual fact it's distributed in the UK by Dialog). Sounds pretty good, huh?

But first a little history. Remember the Plus/4, how Commodore launched it two years ago with on-board 'integrating' software, convinced that it would take the small business market by storm? We all know that you can get one now for a slapup dinner for two

Well. Team-Mare hears more than a passing resemblance to that fated Plus/4 software. In fact, the manual talks about the ability to transfer Plus/4 files directly to 64 Team-Mate data files. To further confuse matters, on the other side of the



Business Business Business

redefined character set which gives you true on-screen 80 characters in packages such as Tasword 64.

The wordprocessor also imposes a limitation of up to 99 lines of text per file — and doesn't 'spool' text to disk to allow longer files. You can, however, 'link' individual files from disk into a single document.

document.

The spreadsheet: a confusing collection of code and commands which (in one of its modes) can be used to create both spreadsheet models as well as "business graphics".

graphics.

It offers up to 850 cells (17 columns by 50 rows) and using the 'Plus Graph' module, information from the spreadsheet can be taken into pie, line graph or bar graph charts.

graph charts.

The graphics produced are much better than those on the Plus/4, with actual lines and curves on-screen (instead of ASCII) and curves stocked on top of one appelled.

and curves on-screen (instead of ASCII characters stacked on top of one another). The spreadsheet also allows figures to be 'exported' to the wordprocessor, and this

facility seemed to work quite well.

• The database: this is, I'm afraid, s little winey. Once again, it's difficult to use and offers little power. You can develop relatively large (at least for a 64) databases offering up to 999 records (although I can't

see who would) per file and mere files and reports into the wordprocessor.

Disappointingly, there didn't seem to be any easy way to 'mailmerge' files into the



Spreadsheet program offers a maximus 17 columns by 50 tows.

^onclusions

Overall, I was not impressed by Team-Mate. It looks more like the kind of software used on my old Apple II way back in 1981, than state-of-theart software for the Commodore \$4 in 1886.

The company is apparently plansing a new version to run on the Commodore 128 — but it isn't ready yet. I can't say I'm surprised — there's a lot to fix and improve.

Feam-Mate (for the 64)
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LEWS 128 Wanderings

There's been a flurry of activaty around business software development for the Commodore 128 and 1282 in the past few months, with new packages on offer from Commodore used and third-party offerings—such as the promised Team-Mete

(see story opposite) 128 conversion under development.

Ariolasoft is even being more ambitious,

planning new versions of older programs for the 64 that include enhanced versions for the 128.

The New Consultant — a database system which offers an 'endless' number of records (limited only by disk capacity), a 'browse' facility, a promise to sort a full disk in only fifteen seconds and on-screen help files. For the 64, it's £44 95 — the enhanced version for the 128 is £59.95.
 The New Paperellip — the papidar US.

• The New Papercitip — the popular US word processor which offers facilities such as automatic page numbering, headers and footers, farm letter, mailing list and label-printing functions and a prior preview mode. The 128 version is expected to offer an 80-column screen. It coas £44.95 and you get both 64 and 128 versions on the same disk.

News

 HomePak — A limited-function home integrated software suite which combines the jobs of word-processing, min database and computer-to-computer communications in a single bundle. Only the 64 version here, costing £3,495.

All three of the packages are expected to be available through Ariolasoft by the time

• Cut and Paste — Claimed to be a real ensy-to-use wordprocessor Cut and Paste was wratten by Electrome Arts but is being marketed in the UK by Arnolasoft It's date-based, for the 64 (28 compatible) and coass £24.95. "Learn to use it in several minutes" claims the luth. We'll be review-

ng at soon 64 In Print

Business applications on the 64, however, have not been forgotten. A press release which crossed my desk last week announced the release of a new book which shows you how to set up a business application

with your 54

Business Systems on the Commodore 64 by
Susan Curran and Margaret Norman is
published by Granada Technical Books at
£6 95 in May and you can expect to see a

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If yau've got tired af Campunet and Micronet, ar yau can't affard the subscription, there are plenty of free 'bulletin boards' yau con access with yaur 64 and madem. Same ore special-interest, some are just baring, but MicroGname Is in a class of its awn — Gnamelaver Ken McMahan finds aut why.

What is MicroGnome? Er, it's Uncle Jim and his Juntor Gnome Ranger Club, it's trivia, it's bubbling with Gandalf, it's Goblination, it's a quick 'n' easy guide to flying a helicopter, it's longrange weather forecasts for astrology buffs — it's a bit

Put simply, MicroGnome in a bulletin board run independently by enthusiasts on the 1200/75 band viewdata format used by Prestel. That means you can access it with your Commodore 64 and modern, in the same way as Compunet and Macronet

But the similarity ends there. MicroGnome is (at present) completely free and although it offers the kind of news, information, 'chat' facilities and reviews that 'the professionals' provide, it's often very original and funny - though you please yourself about the latter.

MicroGnome's three founders are professionals in communication. Glyn Phillips, Bob Clark and Terry Horndge are collectively known as Softmachinery, a company specialising in videotext, telesoftware and the like They originally started MicroGnome on what's now become the Gallery on Micronet but left it after certain 'differences' between the two.

Uncle Jim's Junior Gnome Ranger Club - cult following?

dustry. Commodore's dire financial strates is the current hot news. Alternatively there is ample opportunity

to apout forth your views on one of the Babble Boards. There are about half a dozen boards to choose from, catering for different interests including the Ben Board for politices, Trivia, and the latest addition - the Technoboard.

This is where you get the answers to those niggly problems like 'how can I interface my 64 to the washing machine?'. For a reply you'll have to rely on a fellow 64 owner to provide the answer and this is becoming increasingly likely as more Commodore users log on and browse around. This kind of thing is, of course, what bulletin boards are all about. It's also just

as gratifying if you can provide an answer for a fellow backer who's fumbling around in the dark.

Glyn Phillips and Co look after the

MicroGeome database from two rooms in

an unlikely North London sems. And they

don't use megaRAM equipment like the

Big Boys. The database runs on BBC

micros uning just two phone lines - only

two people can be on-line at once. But it's

amall enough to let you look at everything

in one session - and you only get around

fifteen minutes before Glyn's itchy finger

pulls the plug on you.

Which brings us on to what there is to look at. For newsfreaks, Steve Gold of MicroMouse fame provides weekly updates on latest events to the micro in Technoboard is one of five MicroGname

'chat' boards

Everyone's favourite Uncle

Then we come to what many people regard as the star feature of MicroGuome This is Uncle Jim's Junior Gnome Ranger

UJJGRC is the kind of thing that's hard to describe without actually showing somebody Suffice it to say that Uncle Jam's particular brand of humour will eithet baffle you or leave you rolling around on the floor I must admit to exhibiting the latter response

Regular features in Uncle Jim's column

include handy hints on how to fly a belicopter ("rt's not as difficult as people would have you believe") and how to build an anemometer ("watch your mother gawp in amazement as you lay your matrum on the tea rable!").

Uncle Jim's family medical page covers topics as diverse as 'why men fart' to 'how to avoid old age' — apparently an illusion brought on by the inability to remember the names of contemporary pop groups.

Then there's 'The Mystery Of Botty Grange, an ongoing Famous Five type serial à la Comic Strip

Uncle Ism also runs competitions with

Budding artists exhibit their greatest

Billyidol

The answer, it seems, will be to introduce a small subscription change. Apart from the obvious drawback, there are some advantages. The use of logon passwords introduces the possibility of a private mailbox facility.

gnomes start here.

Glyn Phillips also bas plans to introduce

a Gallery area m which you can buy and update your own frames. This would mean you could create your own mint database. say, specifically for Commodore owners. So there are plenty of plans, which inevitably will need plenty of money.

free, at least for the time being. So take advantage of it while you can. If enough people decide to subscribe. the future is assured. Otherwise, the prospects of a homeless Guome though sad, is inevitable.

MicroGnoma is on 01-888 8894

lucrative prizes Two of the most spec tacular greenways to date have been a photograph of Uncle Jim's cousm's wedding and a walk on part in The Mystery of

No more Gnome?

Alas, news has just come in that Soft machinery are no more. Their demise was brought about by finances problems and Bob Clark's departure. As The Gnome's existence thus far has been justified solely in rt berng a window and testbench for Softmachinery's products, rts future is in considerable jeopardy.

No subject is too complex for Uncle Jim's subtle Intellect . . .

MicroGrare

The modem wars ore hotting up, with Compunet and Micronet rivalling each other to provide the best 'net' softwore. So we'd better look at whot's on affer for the dedicated downlooder.

by Goof Wheelwright

Well, Bust My Bow - Robin of Sheravood, Arc of Yesold and the Nodes of Yesold from Odin Computer are now available on Compunet. This collection of historical classics joms an impressive array on new games - such as Who Dares Witt II and Thunderbirds - on offer at Compuner.

⊕ Cheape Wordpros, etc — Longtime Commodore business software developers Precision and Audiogenic now have a wide range of business software available on Compunet, but make sure you call late at night if you want to download any of these long and heavyweight packages.

The list includes Precision's Superscripe word-processor, Superbase database program, Supertype typing tutor and Audiogenic's Swift spreadsheet, Magase database and Wordcraft word-processor. Compunet also promises that some of the software - such as the Audiogenee Swift spreadsheet - will be available in special Commodore 128 versmos.

Getting A Cheap Quill - Writers of Quilled adventures waning to put their games on Compunet have tradinously faced high storage charges - but now Reacrive (yet another arcane sub-section of the octopus-like Compunet) is planning to help them out.

It offers technical or editorial advice that Quill authors may need and will sid in the marketing and uploading of Quill-written software. According to his comments on Compunet, Reactive's Al Lenton is looking for trdy adventures with many neatness counts, 'We're looking for un-aginative Quill adventures with a proper map. It's important to have saved the database as well as the actual adventure -without that, rt can't be amended if necessary.' Amend to that, (groun . . .)

· Book Hacker: The book they wanted to ban, the book that rocked the Secret Service, the book that made backers both the heroes and villains of '85 . . Hugo Cornwall's best selling The Hacker's Handbook (Century) is back in a 'revised and expanded' echtron. You get a thotough and updated rewrite, more pages, and at £6.95, you pay £2 more. Funntly enough, some of the 'naughty bits' are no longer present and we still don't know who H. Cornwall crally ra.



For the hacker with a radio comes George Sassoon's The Radio Hacker's Code Book, published by Duckworth (£6.95). If you know what RTTY is and you happen to have a phase lock loop detector, this one's for you. For the rest of us, it's just a good read and an eye-opener mto the mysterrous world of data transmissron and encryption on radio waves. Tune into Chma's Xinhua News Agency and you'll get rice production figures and table tennis results - a real must.

Party Per Free? You can now get the software to operate Compunet's Party-Lime for free. By going to 1000 on C'net, you can pick up the standard dumb ter minal program and download it free of charge. Be warned, however, that the free software is pretty primitive - you get what you pay for.

Please, Mr. Please - The most amusing missive of the month came as a Compunet Couriet message from one Richard Owen, who sent the following

Dear Geof, please can you mention my name in next month's issue of Commodore User in the Happy Hacker section as I betted my friend that I could get you to men-tion my name. PLEASEPH from Richard Owen',

If that wasn't enough, our Mr Owen was so keen to win the bet that the following arrived in my murlbox three days after the first message:

Dear Geof, I hope you received my first letter concerning the Happy Hacker section of Commodore User. I still hope you school is still valid and I am getting very worried! Please put my name in as I am a great fan of the User! Richard Owen!, Consider it mentioned.

Micronet Downers - probably miffed by Compuner's much-improved downloadable telesoftware offerrags, Macronet is going for the brg one this month by offering a free Star Trek game and Tasman's nifty Tasword 64 wordprocessor, on disk for £17,95 (a saving of two quid) to rts already extensive line. According to the 'Net's own charts, rt's best selling downloadable games for last month mcluded Commando and Armageddon

• A London student has garnered the dubinan bonour of becoming the first person to be convicted under the new computer firsted laws.
• Archeopy Antonious backed his way into Prested and struck upon a novel produce of the control of the control of the produce of the control of the control of the ordered £20 worsts of flowers from a Berist and zwa n house credit card florist and gave a bogus credit of number. For his pains, he was rec iy fined £30 at Richmond Magistr

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tips It's a bold man wha



Argy Borgy

As a Commodore 64 user 1 am constantly amazed at the ever improving graphics obtained on this machine. I have recently bought a new 14" partable TV which has an RGB interface. How con Lutilise the improved clarity of RG8 in conjunction with my 64? M.D. Ursell, Gloucester.

Funny, I'm sure I've answered this one (frequently) before, if any ta cut dawn the load far the pastman staggering up to Tammy's Tawers I shall give the answer ance mare: the Cammodare 64 daes not have an RGR autput and connat be used with an RGE maniter.

The nearest you can get is using the 'Cammadare Videa' autput which splits the colour and lum/sync signals, ta give a better picture than a stroight compasite videa signal can. Hawever, there is na simple way at breaking this dawn further to give you an RGR signal, sa yau cannat use yaur TV/monitor to produce RGB quality pictures.

A know-oll writes

I gat a Commadare 128 for Christmas and since then I have done a lot of pragramming. I like writing games the best. By naw I feel confident that I know all there is to be known about Basic 7. I would like now to progress on to an even better language. I would be grateful if you could recommend a language for the 128 which is easy to learn and more pawerful than Basic. R. Danavan, Sheffield

claims he knaws knaw about a camputer language after anly a manth, even if it is just

There aren't many languages around yet far the 12R, unless af caurse you include those that will run in its 64 oulse. In which case the chalce is extremely wide. You must be careful in chaasing a language since the best one will depend on what you want to use it far.
As for ease of learning, this is

another personal factor; generally the mare powerful a language is, the harder It is to learn how to use all the features that make It

pawerful. There are several languages that

might fulfil you more than Basic; e.a. LOGO and FORTH are both papular amongst home computer owners. My personal recommendation would be PASCAL, a highly structured language which has many powerful features and is a very good general language for mast types of applications.

Hawever, If you want to write fast games programs, there are better ones such as C.

There are a number of versions of PASCAL available for the 64; Oxford PASCAL at around £50, Zaam PASCAL around £25, PASCAL-64 fram Orpheus also £25 and the recently announced SUPER
PASCAL from First Publishing at £65.

Hawever, name of these can use the 'extra' functions of the 128, such as the RO calumn screen, since they will only run in the 64 made.

Get the point

I'm using a Commadare 64 and MPS 801 printer to da some financial wark with-Basic programs I've written myself. The program gives answers to two decimal places by using defined functions. The problem occurs when I print the figures aul. When I print whale

numbers, nathing is printed after the last digit, not even the decimal place. And for figures like £22.80, the final 'zero' won't print, is there any way i con't print these figures aligned and in columns, just like a bank statement?

P Hodgson, Workington

There are two ways of salving your problem. One invalves a machine cade rautine which allaws a PRINT USING type of command. That would take rather more space than I have, so the second and simpler aption is to turn the figure into a string, after which you can farmat

It haw you like.
The fallowing shart sub-routine will do what you require; line 10 is just an example of how to use it:
10 INPUT"INPUT A NUMBER";A: XX = A:GOSUB100: FRINTXXS

20 GOTO10 100 FS = STRS(INT(XX)):SS = "." 110 IF XX < > INT(XX) THEN \$\$ = \$\$ + MIO\$ (STR\$ (100 + (XX*100) — INT(XX)* 100 +

.001), 3,2) 120 55 = LEFT\$(\$\$+"00",3):XX\$= RIGHTS!" "+ F\$ + 5\$,9) 130 RETURN 999 REM *** XX\$ WILL ALIGN IN COLUMNS SO THAT THE DECIMAL POINTS LINE UP

16 memory swindle

I own a Cammadare 16 computer and I am very pleased with its copabilities. But when I om using Hi-Res graphics mode, it assigns 10k of RAM to store the data for the bit-mopped screen

But if I use Hi-Res made with split screen (which gives me five lines of text at the battam of the screen) it does not give me back the area of screen which is not being used for Hi-Res. This would give me about 4k af memary instead of 2k at present for 'Basic' text This looks to me like a swindle.

Could you please Help me? Keith Jump, Crewe.

This is one occasion where oil is not what it seems. When you use the 'split screen' you are in fart using parts of both screen oreas: hi-res and text,

The computer jumps between the two screens at the split point, thus oppeoring to display only one screen. In fact, the whole hi-res screen is still there; you can still draw in the bottom part even though this would not be seen because the display had switched back to the text screen,

Although you are not using this area for display I am ofroid there is no way you can get this area back to Basic, since it is at the 'tap' of the hi-res screen oreo and Rasic is below the hi-res screen gree.

However, there is nothing to step you using the memory locations far staring machine cade or POKEIng volues directly since the

But you must be extremely coreful not to draw any shape which would extend into this blonked' orea atherwise it will happily overwrite what you stared there. If you want to try this, the 'hidden' memory locations are cantained from 14592 to 16191 inclusive when you have o five line texteres.

All strung up

I'm having difficulty making sense of the INSTR function on my new C-128, which is supposed to make it easy to compare the contents of different strings. I reckon I could use this in parser routines when I'm writing odventures Could you pleose exploin how it works, especialy since the sample in the System Guide only gives me o syntox error* John Runcey, Brighton.

You're right about the INSTR function being useful for adventure writing (you could also use it for search routines way, INSTR is also ovoliable on the

16 and Plus/4. Here's an idea of how it works in adventures to give more compact and elegant parser routines. Take a lack at the fatlowing little exam-

ple: 10 AS="WAITSLEEPRESTHALT-

20 INDIT "WHAT NOW"-VS 30 IF INSTR(AS, VS) > 0 THEN SO: ELSE 40

40 PRINT "YOU "VS-GOTO 20 50 REM TEMPORARY LINE

60 PRINT "YOU CHOOSE TO "VS" HERE":GOTO 20

You'll see that In line 40, we've put five words into the A\$ voriable. The pragram is searching for a match between V\$ and are af the words contained in AS. If none Is found, INSTR halds a value of zera and you go book to the INPUT In line 20.

Rut, say you typed in 'rest', which does oppear in the A\$ string, INSTR would retain the value of which the first motching choracter eccurs. Since that is 'R', you get o letter in the A\$ string. From there it's pioin solling; you branch to line 50, to whotever rautine you've written to deal with that particular Input.

Double Trouble

I have recently been fortunate enough to ocquire a second 1541 disk drive in good working order and wish to know how I con integrate it into my 64 system as part of a dual-drive unit

It is, at the moment, another 0 unit with a device number 8, as is my other drive. Can you help me, please? Alan Shadrack, W. Yorks.

You should be wary af getting mixed up bet-ween 'dual-drive' units which have two drives both in the same bax, ond two 'single-drive units which are independent af anch ather

Toke a tip from us, Tammy's Tips are the best, When it technical and programming queries, whether they're on the 64, 128, 16 or Plus/4, me 04, 128, 16 or Plusi4, Tommy's your mon. Go on, write to him: Tommy's Tips, Commodore User, 30-32 Farringdon Lone, London EC19 341 ECIR JAU.

In the former case the whale unit is device 8, with drives 0 and 1. In the case of two single drives they are bath drive 0 with device numbers 8 and 9 respectively.

Saftware that will work with 'duol-drives' is unlikely to work with two single drives and viceversa. There is some software available far the 64 that will allaw both combinotians, but this is rare. If you want to cannect two 1541s ta the camputer at the same time then you must change the device number of the second drive from R to 9. If you don't fancy toking the way of doing it through saftware. This is explained on page 39 of the 1541 manual.

It is loborious to do every time you wont to use the camputer since you have to turn the second drive en, change the device number,

then turn the first drive on, otherwise the softwere can't distinguish between the drives.

By for the best way is to change the links inside the second drive so that It olways powers up as device 9. The pracedure is explained an page 40 of the monuol; it involves cutting a smoll metal link between two D-shaped solder 'pads'. However, there are different ver-sions of the disk drive and the pasition of the pads can vary. Older mothines have the pods an the left-hand edge (loaking from the front) while newer drives have them neor the middle. If yours is on the left-hand edge then cut the rear one; If In the middle then cut the one negrest the front

After cutting the link it is possible. If you have a soldering iran, to saider a smell piece of wire to each pod and then to a switch, if you then cut a hole in the side of the case to mount the switch you can change the device number het-ween 8 and 9 without removing the tap ogain. If you do fit a switch, only aperate it when the unit is not pawered up.

Game for Ideas

I have been looking through program listings in mogazines far ideas an writing my own games on - the Commodore 64. On quite a few accasions I've come acrass the following lines:

POKE 198.2: POKE 631.13: LOAD I'm totally baffled by all this. Could you please tell me what's going on? Mark Wallace, Rugby.

Address 198 is the count of the number of chorocters in the keyboord buffer, while oddresses 631 to 640 farm the keyboard buf-

fer area Itself. Whot this bit of code does therefore is to tell the computer that there are two characters in the keyboard buffer and then put the value 13 (ASCII corriage return character) into the first location of the buffer. This has the same effect os if the RETURN key had been pressed, but without needing to invalve the user.

As to why it is done, this will tend to depend very much an the pra-gram itself, since the same method con be used to poke RUN or any other commond directly into the keybard buffer to praduce same sart of 'auto' effect,

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Tony Crowther has resoured Afligata Aillam Wobbler

Software development company uti-time as a programmer Perhaps he Softstone have a static electricity profolded up because of the terrible slag- blem. The house responsible for ging he got from industry gob Bruce numerous conversions and most im-Everisis I suppose poor Tony threw a portantly this month's cover game Super Bowt, have a cupboard full of

Fancy a few hands then Sam?" asks 'Dirty Dava' Mar-



here's something crawling over my desk leaving a horrible trait of stime in its wake. Uurgh! It's a bug surcy piece of gossip. Oh dear it's so stimy I'm repulsed t daren't touch it. I'tt tell you instead that Martech are putting out a Saman

tha Fox game complete with digitised pictures of Sain in varying stages of undress Last time such a game was released (Strip Poker) retailers Smiths refused to stock it. No such tack this time it

seems sexy Sain's cheery face has won them over

I think I'll stick to playing with my pet person Erm, wait a minute, that doesn't sound right

Meanwhile at the lavish launch of The Force (slagged in this month's Screen Scene as I predicted: PR man Dave Carlos was given a hard time Hecklers tired a barrage of questions distance from the trendy militants and instead snuffled the real truffles. First, that the game was - as I jokify Sounds a bit wallyish to me suggested it should be - tested at Handon on trainee coopers, and second, that Scotland Yard, when asked, refused to touch the game with a riot shietd "because of its violent connotations" Shurley shume mishtake

Over at Hewson (they've dropped Gyron and Fighting Warmor the Consultants bit) everyone is in a very good mood. Undium is selling tike nobody's business Andrew Braybrook the game's programmer is 128 version of his own which allows him continous tire and has an enhanced background. This is a bit of habit if seems. He also has a special edition of Paradroid with the scroll rate souped hard for that I The piece in question. Ocean's 3D brief up Boss Andrew Hewson hinted that these and other tweaked versions group sent one to us and one to the formation I leave you to wait next might yet see the 1ght of day on a special compilation

that they are trying to discover why a hair stand on end . package titled with a tew cassette inlays and Steve Wilcox's funch came to be waiting for a DHL courier to take it

to S. Afrara

representative, adding "but the turds when you pursue the Grace packages do carry the company logo". Jones figure Taste just isn't Domark's

Fame in honour of my services to the industry a new software company has been formed to pump more compilations on to the market. The collection is flatteringly entitled Hotshots

More tame. Well defame really. An oblique reference to me appeared in flavour) suggesting I had had to des was the PPLO ransom note. The other aforementioned rag They didn't month for another thriting installbother with the rest. Aware

Over at Elite things are so hectic, idead 64s to testify to the problem, t. Virgin's Nick Alexander what with Commando on the C16 and doubted them until I picked up a demonstrates the only way to all those arcade games conversions, joystick and got a shock that made my clean up with his F.A. Cup

One of the other games that Softstone were responsible for was A View to a Kit. They try to keep it a secret Mikro Gen are also having a low Apparently it was a constant struggle packaging problems. Their games because Domark gave them a very exkeep disappearing in the post. We're acting brief on the game. Some very at him concerning pickets and written inot "casting any doubts on the hones. Strange ideas came up including a confessions. Hotshofs kept a discreet try of the staff of the GPO", said a suggestion that you have to avoid dog

strong point, but they really would

have put their toot in it then

American Footbalt mania is high at Ocean currently Director John Woods - responsible for the game's develop-Games on it include Shadowlire, the process He's now known as 'the Reingerator'.

Whitst we're at Ocean 1 can tell you relaxing by tweaking away at a special one of the lesser Commodore mags. Knightrider has a firm release date (to (the one with the international miss). You may remember first soone adverts for it way back in '85 well cend to repong something off from since then three different program Zat My word, times would have to be mers have tried and farted to follow

With that awe inspiring piece of inment of Hotshots .







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